



Niagara Nature Alliance

Table Inquiry Summary

Participants were asked to write one or two words on post-it notes to describe the importance of connecting or re-connecting children to nature. The words were compiled to create the Wordle at right to reflect on within our Nature Alliance.



Please note that for the questions that follow, bracketed numbers represent similar responses, which were grouped together.

What ideas do you have regarding specific topics to be explored within the Nature Alliance?

- Knowledge about specific elements in nature for educators (i.e. trees, plants) (3)
- How to get parents and educators on board with outdoor curriculum programs and their benefits (3)
- Provocations to create opportunities to share ideas (3)
- Licensing requirements (how to work with and connect) and specific guidelines (2)
- Sharing ideas with fellow educators
- How to align Nature Alliance to *How Does Learning Happen?* and *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*
- Guest speakers
- Information on what funding is accessible for early learning and child care and JK/SK programs
- Private garden centres – scraps, seconds, recycled materials
- Active care of forests and natural areas
- Uses of nature (medicine)
- What we are working towards as a community





What organizations, outside of early learning and child care, should we invite to participate in the Nature Alliance?

- Niagara Parks (5)
- Heartland Forest (Canadian Wildlife Federation) (2)
- Nature Clubs (2)
- Aboriginal support (2)
- Photographers
- Local businesses (landscapers, garden centres)
- Boy Scouts/ Girl Guides
- Niagara College Agriculture program
- Niagara Food Co-op
- Conservation Authority
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- St. John's Outdoor Education Centre
- Public Health
- Ministry of Education

How often would you like to meet as a Nature Alliance?

- Seasonally (4)
- Monthly (2)
- Bi-Monthly
- Online

What areas are you hoping the Nature Alliance could inspire you, inform you or support you with?

- How to make our own environments adaptable with little to no budget (3)
- Activities to do at the locations and safety (2)
- Family nights with parents
- Open-ended materials – loose parts
- Presenters
- Providing knowledge
- Partnership with other centres
- Forest School training and certification

Any suggestions regarding special activities that could be offered through the Nature Alliance?

- Hands-on workshop
- Activities such as excursions
- Coming together as a community to participate in nature based programs/events with children on an annual basis
- Something for young children - toddler, preschool, kindergarten