



## Outdoor Play for Children

Updated February 2012

This resource list is available on-line at  
[www.allianceforchildhood.org/publications](http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/publications)

### BOOKS

William Crain, *Reclaiming Childhood: Letting Children Be Children in Our Achievement-Oriented Society*, Henry Holt Owl Books, 2003.

Tim Gill, *No Fear: Growing Up in a Risk Averse Society*, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, 2007.

Elizabeth Goodenough, editor, *Where Do the Children Play? A Study Guide to the Film*, 2nd edition, Alliance for Childhood, 2010.

*A Place for Play*, National Institute for Play, 2008.

Both books can be ordered at [www.press.umich.edu](http://www.press.umich.edu).

Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, Algonquin Press, 2005.

*The Nature Principle: Human Restoration and the End of Nature-Deficit Disorder*, Algonquin Press, 2011.

David Sobel, *Wild Play: Parenting Adventures in the Great Outdoors*, Sierra Club Books, 2011.

Sobel has written many fine books on children and nature.

Van Noy, Rick, *A Natural Sense of Wonder: Connecting Kids with Nature Through the Seasons*, University of Georgia Press, 2008.

Ward, Jennifer, *I Love Dirt! 52 Activities To Help You and Your Kids Discover the Wonders of Nature*, Shambhala Publications, 2008.

### FILMS

“Where Do the Children Play?” – A 57 minute PBS documentary. Available from [www.press.umich.edu](http://www.press.umich.edu).

“Wetlands and Wonder” – A 12 minute documentary by the EPA. Online at  
[www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/education/wetlandsvideo](http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/education/wetlandsvideo).

“When Learning Comes Naturally” – A 28 minute documentary, part of the Learning Child Series. Guided by the Child Development Institute at Sarah Lawrence College. Available at <http://thelearningchildseries.org>.

### ORGANIZATIONS AND WEB SITES

Alliance for Childhood: [www.allianceforchildhood.org](http://www.allianceforchildhood.org)

American Association for the Child’s Right to Play: [www.ipausa.org](http://www.ipausa.org)

Arbor Day Foundation, Nature Explore: [www.arborday.org/explore](http://www.arborday.org/explore)

Children’s Environments Research Group: [web.gc.cuny.edu/che/cerg/index.htm](http://web.gc.cuny.edu/che/cerg/index.htm)

Children and Nature Network: [www.childrenandnature.org](http://www.childrenandnature.org)

Ecology Global Network includes Kids Korner: [www.ecology.com/kidscorner](http://www.ecology.com/kidscorner)

Grass Stain Guru’s web site and blog: <http://grassstainguru.com>

Hooked on Nature: [www.hookedonnature.org](http://www.hookedonnature.org)

KaBOOM!, playgrounds and play: [www.kaboom.org](http://www.kaboom.org)  
Love Outdoor Play: <http://loveoutdoorplay.net/>  
National Institute for Play: [www.nifplay.org](http://www.nifplay.org)  
National Recreation and Park Association: <http://www.nrpa.org>  
National Wildlife Federation, Green Hour: [www.greenhour.org](http://www.greenhour.org)  
Natural Learning Initiative, playground design: [www.naturalearning.org](http://www.naturalearning.org)  
No Child Left Inside: [www.nclcoalition.org](http://www.nclcoalition.org)  
Playborhood, advocating for neighborhood play: <http://playborhood.com>  
Pop-Up Adventure Play: <http://www.popupadventureplay.org>  
The Trust for Public Land, playgrounds: [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org)  
Wild Zones, natural play areas: [www.wild-zone.net](http://www.wild-zone.net)

## GOVERNMENT PROJECTS

Bureau of Land Management, "Take It Outside":  
[www.blm.gov/pgdata/content/wo/en/prog/more/Children\\_and\\_Nature.html](http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/content/wo/en/prog/more/Children_and_Nature.html)  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "Let's Go Outside": [www.fws.gov/letsgooutside](http://www.fws.gov/letsgooutside)  
U.S. Forest Service, "More Kids in the Woods": [www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/woods](http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/woods)  
White House Campaign, Let's Move Outside: <http://www.letsmove.gov/lets-move-outside>

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Parks, schools, museums and other organizations planning outdoor events for children can gain momentum and media coverage by linking up with national events.

September:

Take a Child Outside Week: [www.takeachildoutside.org](http://www.takeachildoutside.org)  
World Wide Day of Play, last Saturday in September:  
<http://www.nick.com/thebighelp/worldwide-day-of-play>

October:

Make Tracks Family Trail Weekend: <http://www.nwf.org/maketracks>

March:

National Wildlife Week: [www.nwf.org/nationalwildlifeweek](http://www.nwf.org/nationalwildlifeweek)

April:

Earth Day: [www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net)  
Arbor Day: [www.arboday.org/arboday/index.cfm](http://www.arboday.org/arboday/index.cfm)  
Screen Free Week: <http://www.commercialfreechildhood.org>  
Week of the Young Child: [www.naeyc.org/woyc](http://www.naeyc.org/woyc)

June:

National Trails Day: [www.americanhiking.org](http://www.americanhiking.org)  
Great Outdoors Week: [www.funoutdoors.com](http://www.funoutdoors.com)  
National Get Outdoors Day: [www.nationalgetoutdoorsday.org](http://www.nationalgetoutdoorsday.org)  
Great American Backyard Campout: [www.nwf.org/backyardcampout](http://www.nwf.org/backyardcampout)

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