

## Some Helpful Hints

- Try starting your day outside, the moment your program opens.
- Inform and prepare your parents for any significant shift in program focus.
- Children love eating outside, napping outside and even playing in the rain.
- Give your teaching partners a bit of time to get their head around the idea.
- Start small and build on success.
- Document (in writing & with pictures) your experiences and share with parents and fellow colleagues.
- Even infants & toddlers thrive outside. They really can do it!
- You don't need to over plan. A few activities can go a long way, outdoors.
- Show the children you too are having fun!!



## History of MNACC

The Manitoba Nature Action Collaborative for Children (MNACC), is a regional affiliate of the Nature Action Collaborative for Children (NACC) which is an international initiative of the World Forum Foundation.  
[www.worldforumfoundation.org](http://www.worldforumfoundation.org)

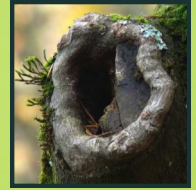
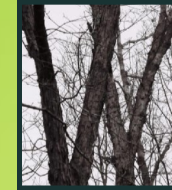
Our group gathers 4-5 times per year to share ideas on how to further address the adverse effects children are experiencing due to diminishing connection to the natural world.



## History of NACC

The international group of educators, naturalists, landscape architects, community planners and early childhood educators was started in 2006, at a working forum at Arbor Day Farms in Nebraska, USA.

For more information or to get on the mailing list, contact Ron Blatz at [rblatz@discoverycc.com](mailto:rblatz@discoverycc.com)



# The Two-Week Outdoor Challenge



# The Two-Week Outdoor Challenge

This global challenge is being put out to early childhood and other educators who



want to do something to improve the health of young children. If you will commit yourself, as an educator, to taking the children in your care outdoors for an extended period of time,

then this challenge is for you.

It might be two days, a week of half days, or stretch to a full two weeks outdoors. Do what works for you, and begin what will surely be an incredible experience for both yourself and your students.

Please e-mail your commitment to Ron Blatz of the Manitoba Nature Action Collaborative for Children (Canada) at [rblatz@discoverycc.com](mailto:rblatz@discoverycc.com)



## History

This challenge was started in 2011 in Winnipeg Canada by Doris Storey who began to dream about creating an outdoor experience beyond what is normally provided in Canada.



2011—four or five centres join the Two Week Outdoor Challenge.

2012—we were aware of about 17 programs from Sault St. Marie, Ontario

to Vancouver Island that participated.

2013—at present we have 29 programs that have taken the challenge, and now we would like to challenge the world to join us.

The challenge was birthed due to several critical discoveries that were made ...

- Canadian Child Care Programs, on average, spend 95% of their time indoors.
- Other “cold weather” countries with similar climates spend 2.5 times more time outside than do Canadian Child Care Programs.

## What Others Are Saying...

- “No one complained about being bored but picnic lunches every day became tire-some. Nap time outdoors is AWESOME even (especially) in the rain—we highly recommend it!” - Cheryl T. ECEII Family Child Care



- “Children get to smell nature, hear thunder, and explore at their own pace, as the clock is unhooked from the daily schedule.” -ECE Seven Oaks Childcare



- “Long periods of uninterrupted play are a must for quality programs.” Doris Storey Discovery Centre, Winnipeg

- “This has been a highlight of the year. The more we are out the more we want to be out.

The more we are out the more creative my teaching becomes! I love teaching this way” -Heather F., Grade 5 Teacher, Winnipeg

- “It has opened my mind and I love being in tune with nature while learning at school, who would have thought that!” -Grade 5 Student, Winnipeg