TAKE THOSE INFANTS and TODDLERS OUTSIDE!

Betsy Thigpen
Nature Based Learning and Development

Connect Children with Nature

Have we fenced nature out?
Can we take brain development (learning and development) OUTSIDE?

Developmental Framework
Children Birth to Three
INFANTS AND TODDLERS AT WORK: Using Reggio-Inspired Materials To Support Brain Development

DEVELOPMENTAL FRAMEWORK
BEFORE THEY SIT – birth to 4 - 5 months
- stare
- point
- imitate
DEVELOPMENTAL FRAMEWORK

BEFORE THEY SIT – birth to 4 -5 months

• stare
• point
• imitate

BEFORE THEY WALK AND CARRY THINGS – 5 to 12 months

Begin to use their hands
Begin to sit
Begin to move
Begin to acquire language

WALKING, CARRYING, & MANIPULATING THINGS – 12 to 36 months

• Reaching for things
• Touching things
• Carrying things
• Collecting things
• Hiding things

COMPLEX OPERATIONS

PRESCHOOL CHILDREN – threes and fours

walking, talking, moving, sharing ideas, grasping new concepts, expressing their opinions, learning how things work

The Natural Learning Initiative
College of Design | NC State University
Pod³ Triangle Regional Symposium
Healthy Early Childhood Outdoor Learning Environments
June 21st, 2013
Take Those Babies and Toddlers Outside!

Environments
Materials
Experiences
in
Outdoor Environments
POD$^3$ Triangle Regional Symposium
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Can these children achieve their developmental tasks outside?

All of the necessary learning and development OUTSIDE?

Materials
Experiences

Materials
Children will learn essential cognitive skills –

all necessary for brain development and school readiness

from interacting with materials

FOUNDATION
Experiences with materials

for cognitive development
for brain development
for school readiness

Experiences In NATURE
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CAN THE DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF INFANTS, TODDLERS, & TOWS BE MET IN THESE OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTS?