

Connecting Gardening and Curriculum:
A Collection of Online Resources to Assist Educators with Outdoor Education

Connecting with Nature Educational Guide

<http://www.davidsuzuki.org/what-you-can-do/connecting-youth-with-nature/#teachers-tab>

This resource manual written by the David Suzuki Foundation provides recommendations, benefits, and lesson plans concerning outdoor education. Each guide provides approximately five outdoor learning lesson plans dealing with all subject areas. Curriculum requirements are noted within each lesson plan, but must be altered to meet Ontario requirements.

Four different versions of the manual are available: Kindergarten, Primary, Grades 4-6, Grades 7-8.

FoodShare

<http://www.foodshare.net/educator-tools#foodlitlessons>

Ontario site that has activities broken into categories of Cooking & Tasting; Plants & Gardening; Soil & Composting and finally Food Outside the Box.

There are manuals as well as lesson plans to be found on this site for FDK to Grade 8.

Health Canada: Canada's Food Guide

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/food-guide-aliment/index-eng.php>

Government provided documents that will help emphasize the importance of healthy eating. Guides provided will help children understand different food groups and how to make healthier choices when preparing their meals. Toolkits supplied also teach children the importance of physical activity.

Kids Gardening

<http://www.kidsgardening.org/school-gardening>

This site provides an introduction to school gardens and then activities that can be done using what is in/around the garden. Other resources are specific activity plans along with the grade that it is most appropriate for. Activities for FDK to Grade 8.

It is an American site so the connections to curriculum documents are not applicable to Ontario.

Kids Growing

<http://www.kidsgrowing.ca>

A Ontario website that resource tool box provides lesson plans from FDK through to Grade Six. A variety of topics are addressed in a cross-curriculum manner, such as: herbs, composting, and importance of water and nutrition.

Natural Curiosity: A Resource for Teachers -- Building Children's Understanding of the World through Environmental Inquiry

<http://www.naturalcuriosity.ca/pdf/NaturalCuriosityManual.pdf>

This resource manual, developed by The University of Toronto, is intended to assist educators in meeting Ministry of Education Policies through Environmental Inquiry. It gives insight on transforming educational practices to become more creative, enjoyable, and related to the outdoors through investigation. In addition to explaining the pedagogy, this manual links environmental inquiry to

curriculum. Examples of educators turning anecdotal information and the students' questions into curriculum coverage are provided.

This guide is highly recommended for primary grades, and can be applied to junior and intermediate grades as well.

Nutrients for Life

<https://www.nutrientsforlife.ca/for-teachers/>

This is an organization committed to ensuring that the earth's growing population can be fed sustainably within the coming decades. Their goal is to educate young people on improving on crop growth and protecting the environment. The site provides lesson plans adapted to the Ontario Curriculum for senior grades (6,7,8). The manual provided, *Nourishing the Planet in the 21st Century*, covers themes such as soil, essential nutrients, and plant-soil interactions.

Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc.

<http://www.oafe.org/>

Various resources relating to Ontario Curriculum and organic gardening experiences. Lesson plans ranging from proper nutrition, agriculture, and endangered species available from FDK-Grade 8.

*In order to access resources an account must be made. Registration is free.

Seeds for Change

<http://seedsforchange.org/index.php/educators-corner>

A large database of lesson plans for FDK-Grade 8 that allow for curriculum to be covered in an outdoor setting. The database search allows for lessons to be found based on grade level, province, and subject. The lessons provided often are cross-curricular and fulfill a broad range of curriculum expectations.

**Must register to access materials. An account can be made free of charge.

The Edible Schoolyard

<http://edibleschoolyard.org/resources-tools>

This is a website that promotes the vision of "edible education": a movement that supports garden-based education and the importance of a sustainable-local food system. Within this website there is a large database of resources applicable for FDK classes through to Grade 12. The search option provided allows for educators to browse through material based on subject, season, grade level, and resource/program type.

**Educators who contribute resources to this site are both Canadian and American. Specific Curriculum Expectations must be altered accordingly.

The Food Project

<http://thefoodproject.org/activities/sustainable-agriculture-curriculum>

This site provides numerous resources concerning sustainable agriculture. Lesson plans that address compost, soil, pollination, food systems etc. Suggested for junior and intermediate grade levels.