

Nature has the power to make children healthier, happier and smarter.

But over the last few generations, childhood has moved indoors, leaving kids disconnected from the natural world. This worldwide trend has profound implications for children's healthy development—and the future of our planet.

Our Vision:

A world in which all children play, learn and grow with nature in their everyday lives.

Our Mission:

We are leading a global movement to increase **equitable access to nature** so that children—and natural places—can thrive. We do this by investing in leadership and communities through **sharing evidence-based resources**, **scaling innovative solutions** and **driving policy change**.

Nature's Benefits

A growing body of research tells us that time spent in nature can provide children with many benefits:



Health: Time outdoors can improve physical and mental health, increase levels of physical activity, and reduce symptoms of stress, ADHD and autism spectrum disorders.



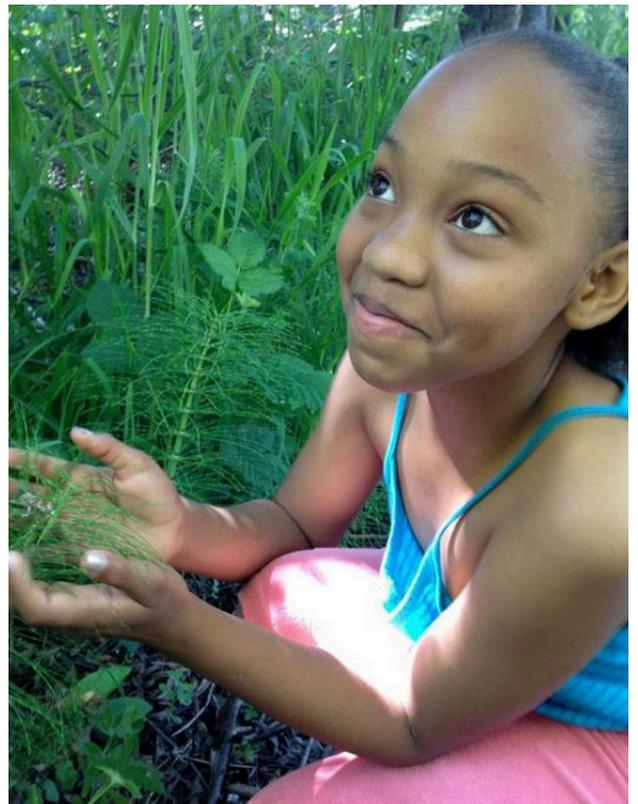
Education: Learning in natural environments can boost performance in reading, writing, math, science and social studies—and enhance creative expression, problem solving and executive function.



Relationships: Through unstructured outdoor play, children develop social-emotional skills needed for life—and build memorable experiences with friends and family.



Conservation: Nothing sparks a sense of wonder in children like the natural world. Kids need to experience natural places in order to appreciate and care for them in the future.



Make the Case

We offer 650+ peer-reviewed studies on the benefits of nature in our free, online **Research Library**. Use these studies—and our online infographics—to “make the case” for nature connection in your community. Stay on top of the latest research by subscribing to our monthly *Research Digest*.

Attend our International Conference

Ideas, inspiration and action: You’ll find it all at our annual **International Conference** and **Leadership Summit**. Share your knowledge and learn from leaders working around the globe to reconnect children to the natural world.

Connect Cities to Nature

Today, most of the world’s people live in urban centers. This trend will continue to grow. Our **Cities Connecting Children to Nature** partnership with the National League of Cities is helping dozens of U.S. communities re-imagine themselves as places of nature connection, with a special focus on lower income neighborhoods.

Empower Young Leaders

Our **Natural Leaders Network** trains and mentors diverse young adults and community organizers (ages 18-29) to create lasting social change by increasing nature access for children and families in their communities.

Strengthen Families

Families are yearning for ways to get their kids away from screens and back outside. Our **Family Nature Clubs** and nature play partnerships with zoos and aquariums offer support, inspiration and access to nature experiences.

Grow Green Schoolyards

A very small percentage of public schools in the U.S. have outdoor green spaces used for educating children. Our network of **green schoolyard activists, educators and policymakers** is working increase nature-based learning and green schoolyards to help children reach their full potential.

Join us!

Members of the Children & Nature Network enjoy opportunities to connect with like-minded people and organizations while shaping the future of the children and nature movement. **Member benefits** also include discounts on our conferences and exclusive access to webinars, tools, resources and funding opportunities.

[**BECOME A MEMBER**, register for our newsletters and learn more at **childrenandnature.org**.]

