

This document is designed to highlight a variety of resources and initiatives related to nature based education for students ages three and up. Unlike outdoor learning where teaching and learning is done outdoors, nature based learning utilizes the natural world to guide learning through time spent engaged with nature. This document is fluid and not exhaustive. It is ever-changing as updates, links and contacts may change.

National Organizations

- Ages 3-5** [Childhood by Nature](#)
- Ages 3-8** [Samara Early Learning Children and Nature](#)
- Ages 5+** [Green Schoolyards America](#)



State Organizations

- Ages 3-5** [Ketcha Outdoors \(K classroom\)](#)
- Ages 3-8** [National Environmental Education Foundation \(NEEF\)](#)
- Ages 5+** [Nature Based Education Consortium](#)
[Teach ME Outside](#)
[Wolfe's Neck Center](#)
[Maine Math and Science Alliance](#)
[Ferry Beach Ecology School](#)
[Natural Resources Council of Maine](#)
- Ages 8+** [Gulf of Maine Research Institute](#)

Maine State Agency Initiatives



- Ages 3-8** [Growing Up Wild](#) (ages 3-7)
Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife:
[Field Trips—Live and Virtual](#)
[Maine Wildlife Park](#)
- Ages 5-8** [Baxter State Park Authority—Junior Ranger Program](#)
- Ages 5+** [Project Wild \(K-12\)](#)
[Maine Forest Service](#)
[Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands- Passport Program](#)
[Department of Marine Services](#)
[Maine Geological Survey](#)
[Maine Bureau of Water Quality](#)
[Wells National Estuary Research Reserve](#)
- Ages 3+** [Maine Department of Agriculture Education Resources](#)
[Acadia National Park](#)

Local Initiatives*

- Ages 3-5** MSAD 28 Camden - Out and About – The Outrageous Outdoors SAU
Contact [Debra McIntyre](#)
- Ages 5+** School Union 76 – Deer Isle-Stonington (Place Based – includes some outdoor partnerships) SAU
Contact – [Lynne Witham](#)
RSU 9 Mt. Blue – Oxbow Outdoors SAU Contact [Jake Bogar](#)
- Ages 3+** Cohort for Embedded Outdoor and Experiential Learning and Teaching (PK-8) -
SAU Contact [Katie West](#)
Katahdin Schools – PK-12 Outdoor Learning Pathways – SAU Contact [Marie Robinson](#)
Agnes Gray Elementary – MSAD 17
All students will learn outdoors
SAU Contact [Sarah Timm](#)



References

- [NATURE-BASED PLAY AND LEARNING: A LITERATURE REVIEW](#) • PEER ASSOCIATES - AMY POWERS AND QING REN
- [SEEDS TO BLOOMS: A REPORT ON NATURE-BASED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AT ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY](#) CHERYL CHARLES, PH.D
- [A NATURAL CHOICE: LEARNING OUTDOORS](#) • NAEYC/YOUNG CHILDREN – LISA HANSEL
- [FOREST DAYS CASE STUDIES](#) • PEER ASSOCIATES - AMY POWERS
- [SCHOOL'S OUT\(DOORS\)](#) • PEER ASSOCIATES & SHELBURNE FARMS
- [A RETURN TO NATURE-BASED EDUCATION](#) • YES MAGAZINE – DAVID SOBEL
- [OUTDOOR PRESCHOOL POLICY ACTION FRAMEWORK](#) • WILLAMETTE PARTNERSHIP

*Other examples of local initiatives can contact Nicole.Madore@maine.gov to be added to this list

