

Let's Get Outdoors: All Together On the Trail



If you are interested in increasing learning time outdoors but aren't sure where to begin, then you will not want to miss the upcoming All Together On the Trail training sessions.

Led by Meredith Florkey, the eight sessions are designed to build on each week. *You can earn nine Ohio Approved hours if you attend all sessions.* Not only will the sessions up your knowledge of nature, but you'll learn the best practices of creating and evaluating outdoor classroom environments.

About the Instructor

Meredith Florkey has 15 years experience in early childhood education, including founding and operating nature schools, coaching nature based education in public and private sectors. In addition, she serves on the Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside Collaborative and the Ohio Nature-Based ECE Collaborative.

All Together On the Trail Session Details

Session Information

Location:

Jones Pavilion at Armco Park
1223 North State Route 741
Lebanon, OH 45036

Cost: \$10 per hour

Register for all 8 sessions and receive a \$10 discount

Registration:

Visit the Ohio Professional Registry at ocrra.org/ohio-professional-registry and search by the ST numbers below.

For More Information:

Kim Allen
kallen@4cforchildren.org | 513-758-1208

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| Session | Date | Time | ST Number |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Exploring the Power of Learning Outdoors | Thursday, Feb. 29 | 6:30-7:30pm | ST10138534 |
| Enhancing Learning with the Power of Our Senses Outdoors | Thursday, Feb. 29 | 7:30-8:30pm | ST10138535 |
| Risks vs Hazards in the Outdoors | Tuesday, March 5 | 6:30-7:30pm | ST10138536 |
| Teacher & Child Skills for Risks Found Outdoors | Tuesday, March 5 | 7:30-8:30pm | ST10138540 |
| Outdoor Classroom Landscape Analysis and Design | Thursday, March 7 | 6:30-7:30pm | ST10138537 |
| Optimizing Learning in Your Outdoor Play Space | Thursday, March 7 | 7:30-8:30pm | ST10138538 |
| The Low Down on Fall & Winter Slow Down | Tuesday, March 12 | 6:30-8:30pm | ST10138539 |
| What's in your backpack? Stakeholders, Roadblocks, Advocacy-Oh My! | Tuesday, March 14 | 6:30-7:30pm | To Register: Call Kim Allen at 513-758-1208 |

See reverse side for session descriptions

All Together On the Trail Session Info



Exploring the Power of Learning Outdoors

By exploring the power of learning outdoors, we will discover the rationale and research supporting creating nature connections and enhancing child development by moving outdoors as much as possible. Participants will establish their own connections and identify roadblocks with working with children outdoors.

Enhancing Learning with the Power of Our Senses Outdoors

Beyond just the usual five senses, we'll explore how our body, emotions, and brain are all activated when we spend time learning outdoors. This fun and invigorating session will walk participants through these benefits as well!

Risks vs Hazards in the Outdoors

What is safe? In this practical session, we'll explore some definitions in the context of early childhood care and education in regards to licensing and best practice.

Teacher & Child Skills for Risks Found Outdoors

When we work outdoors with natural materials either in the outdoor classroom or in natural areas, there will be opportunity for developmentally appropriate risks. This training will help participants see the link between both social-emotional skills and executive function in these natural environments. We will learn how to anticipate and plan for engaging with natural materials and phenomenon.

Outdoor Classroom Landscape Analysis and Design

Teachers, family child care providers and administrators will examine the current outdoor spaces at their center or home, analyze the positives for nature play, troubleshoot negative aspects to the current set up, and think creatively about additions. Practical and low cost solutions will be suggested and resources shared.

Optimizing Learning in Your Outdoor Play Space

Discover amazing ways to take learning outside and to begin thinking of your playground as an outdoor classroom! An emphasis on play and loose parts will be enjoyed by participants while we discuss how working outdoors offers creative and beneficial ways to access mental health, cognitive, and social-emotional support. Practical ideas will be shared in order to take action right away.

The Low Down on Fall & Winter Slow Down

Participants will explore how developmentally appropriate practice meets Fall phenology (the cycles of the climate, plants and animals) in the Ohio hedge, meadow, and forest. This content-rich workshop will have participants immersed in literacy, trail games, math activities with natural items, tracking (reading symbols), science information and song and dance. Participants are invited to bring a favorite nature picture book. Come ready to play and learn!

What's in Your Backpack? Stakeholders, Roadblocks, Advocacy-Oh My!

When you are ready to move your teaching practice outside more, you may experience a lack of support or the task seems insurmountable. In this session we will co-create lists of resources (time, treasure, and talent) to help support your next step. Participants will also be invited to join the nature-based community to help you and/or your program forward into the new year.