

## The Effects of Playing and Learning in Natural Settings

1. Stimulates all aspects and stages of child development.
2. Offers multi-sensory experiences.
3. Stimulates informal play, experiential learning, and natural learning cycles.
4. Stimulates imagination and creativity.
5. Integrates children by age, ability, ethnic background.
6. Helps enhance self-esteem.
7. Offers children a feeling of "intense peace."
8. Centers children in the environment where they live.
9. Helps children understand realities of natural systems.
10. Demonstrates the principle of cycles and processes.
11. Teaches that nature is regenerative.
12. Supports interdisciplinary, environmental education curricula.
13. Provides flexible and forgiving settings.
14. Offers aesthetic appeal.

Adapted from "Info, Facts, and Findings" at <http://www.naturalearning.org/thingstoknow.html>