

Get Outdoors ~ Tips for Teaching Outdoors

Before You Venture Outdoors:

(1) Plan and Practice

- Practice safety rules with your students before going outdoors. Using a whistle if there is an emergency and ensuring everyone can see you at all times should be of most importance.
- Some children may be apprehensive of heading outdoors. Have a plan to reassure them and explain exactly what you will be doing.
- Reminding students the day before about appropriate clothing and footwear is essential.

(2) Visit the Location

- Always visit the location beforehand. Look for possible hazards, locations for meeting or gathering and unique features to help you set specific boundaries.

(3) Stepping Students up for Success

- Once outside, set precise physical boundaries that students understand and can follow.
- Try out the whistle and stress the importance of keeping you in their sight lines.

In the Great Outdoors:

(4) Stay Close

- Start with exploring the school grounds.
- Short outing, of 15-20 minutes, at first to build you and the students comfort level.
- Once the children are comfortable here and develop a sense of place you can venture further into the community.

(5) Have a Clear Plan

- Activities should be clearly defined, explained and demonstrated if need be.
- Effective, clear planning equals happy, engaged and well behaved students.

(6) Back Up Plans for Poor Weather

- Is there a shelter or large tree to retreat to?
- If everyone is dressed appropriately do you continue with the scheduled plan?
- Make sure all supplies are in Ziploc bags or waterproof stuff sacks.
- Bring emergency raingear (i.e. inexpensive reusable rain ponchos or large garbage bags with holes cut for head and arms).

