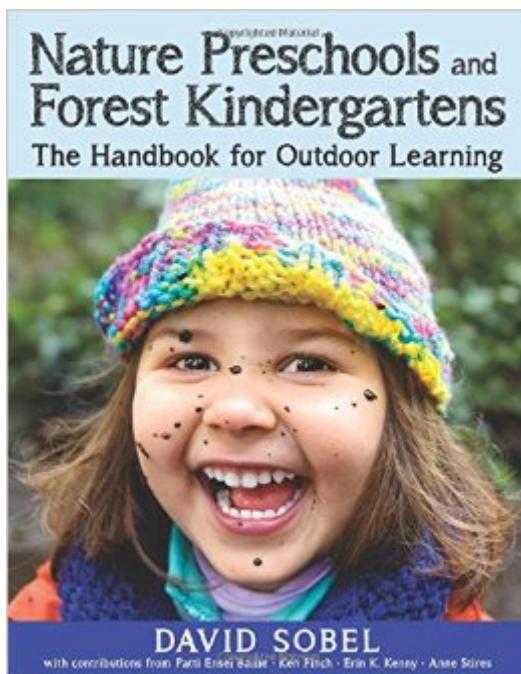


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# Nature Preschools And Forest Kindergartens: The Handbook For Outdoor Learning



## **Synopsis**

Environmental education expert David Sobel joins with a variety of colleagues to share their experiences and steps for creating a successful forest kindergarten program. *Nature Preschools and Forest Kindergartens* walks you through the European roots of the concept to the recent resurgence of these kinds of programs in North America. Going well beyond a history lesson, these experts provide the framework to understand the concepts and build a learning community that stimulates curiosity and inquisitiveness in a natural environment. This helpful guide provides the curriculum, ideas, and guidance needed to foster special gifts in children. It also gives you the nuts and bolts of running a successful nature preschool business, such as potential obstacles, staff and curriculum design, best practices for success, site and facility management, and business planning. *Nature Preschools and Forest Kindergartens* provides the mentorship and guidance to become a leader in nature-based education. David Sobel has spent the last twenty-five years working in the field of child development, place-based education, and parenting with nature. He currently serves as senior faculty in the education department at Antioch University New England in Keene, New Hampshire. His expertise and passion have led him to authoring seven books and being identified as one of the "gurus and rock stars of environmental education" by Teacher magazine.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book is incredible. Nature preschools are a "hot topic" in the world of early childhood education

and David Sobel truly delivers with this book! I have long enjoyed Sobel's work, but whereas his books typically focus on grade school, this book benefits the smallest of our learners. Sobel dives into the history and practice of nature preschools, shares compelling stories and arguments for how children learn through play, and makes the most indoorsy of us all want to schlep through the mud and catch tadpoles with our bare hands. In a world dominated by electronics and an ever growing fast-paced society, this book slows down the modern life and returns us to a childhood that is carefree and at one with the earth. This book does not shy away from the hardships educators face in implementing an outdoor curriculum, rather it embraces them as the beauty of an unpredictable world in which children need to be taught resiliency. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in nature or children, for they truly go hand in hand as anecdotes in the book remind us that, given the opportunity, children embrace their hunter gatherer roots and become engaged in the world around them. In a country that lacks true engagement and interest in anything, one could not be better off in embracing mother earth and teaching the next generation how to love the world before we ask them to save it. Well done, David! This book is beautiful, compelling, and a true gift to early childhood education.

Essential read for educators in or considering the Forest Kindergarten model. It's a combination of philosophy and history, stories from current schools, and practical how-tos like risk management, fiscal planning, and developmentally-appropriate curriculum.

Great starting point for anyone wanting to learning about outdoor education for young children. Lots of resources, research and inspiration included.

It's alright, nothing new that I haven't seen online through unschooling/homeschooling research and a little too wordy for my taste.

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