

Booklist

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When Learning Comes Naturally: Exploring Nature's Classroom.

The Learning Child, DVD, \$29.95.

The idea that nature can be scientifically and artistically inspiring is well known, and this informative program shows how to “offer children a meaningful experience with nature” through examples from four schools. In school gardens, wooded trail areas, shoreline nature centers, and urban parks, creative teachers use green spaces for outdoor activities, allowing students to experience nature directly. For example, an elementary class does research by touching and observing slugs, and at another school, poetry and painting activities are conducted outdoors. Interviews with elementary- and middle-school students, teachers, administrators, and university education experts testify to the effectiveness of outdoor programs. High production values, including crisp footage and excellent sound quality, are a plus. A PDF educators’ guide is included on an accompanying CD. This latest title in the ongoing Learning Child series is recommended for both teachers and parents.

— *Lucinda Whitehurst*