Bringing the Outside In

Creating Nature-Based Classrooms: Breaking the Aesthetic Code

Sandra Duncan, EdD & Jody Martin

The Best Job of All

The Best Job of All

The Best Job of All
Your Childhood Space

Warm
Beautiful
Safe
Secure

You

Share Your Story

Where?

Your Childhood Space

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Your Memory was Beautiful

Nature Instills Beauty

Beauty Instills Wonder
Wonder is Intertwined with Emotions

Emotional Connections & Memories

Experiencing Deeply
**Experiencing Deeply**

PLACE is a piece of the environment that has been claimed by feelings. We are homesick for places . . .

And, the catalyst that converts any physical location into a PLACE is the process of experiencing deeply.

—Alan Gussow
Artist & Naturalist

**Beauty = Nature = Cognition**

**Breaking the Aesthetic Code**
Breaking the Aesthetic Code

Aesthetics is people’s perceptions of what is familiar and socially accepted

Breaking the Aesthetic Code

Society’s Accepted Expectations

- Football Game
- Casino
- Church / Synagogue
- Doctor’s Office
- Hotel Room
- Preschool Classroom

*Every environment has its own aesthetic code.*
Bringing the Outside In

1. Exploring
2. Creating
3. Thinking
4. Sprouting

#1: Exploring
Exploring

✓ Interact
✓ Question
✓ Investigate
✓ Test
✓ Define
✓ Refine

Pond Jar

Shake a Shrub
Shake a Shrub

Classroom Natural Museums

Classroom Natural Museums
Nature Chair

See any birds?

My Land
Find Nature in Unexpected Places

Duct Tape Nature

Challenge

Add 1 outside element to each learning center

#2: Creating
Creating

✓ Textures
✓ Patterns
✓ Colors
✓ Size
✓ Shape

Look . . . and You Will See

Magnificent Mandalas
Challenge

Eliminate construction paper

Go Paperless

- Birchwood
- Tree Bark
- Tiles
- Terra Cotta
- Plywood
- Cheesecloth
- Fabric/Textiles
- Foils
- Cardboard
- Leather Pieces

#3: Thinking
Thinking

✓ Problem Solving
✓ Discovery Making
✓ Collaborating
✓ Investigating

Seashell Count

Seashell Sort
Natural Manipulatives

- Rocks
- Seashells
- Acorns
- Driftwood
- Sticks
- Pinecones
- Sea glass
- Tree pods
- Seeds
- Tree cookies

Challenge

Add 1 natural manipulative to each center
#4: Sprouting

- Intricate Patterns
- Dazzling Colors
- Wonder of Growth
Apple Sunflower Seed Snack

- Cantaloupes
- Pumpkins
- Lemons
- Limes
- Grapefruits
- Peaches
- Avocados
- Pears
- Plums
- Oranges

- Cherries
- Muskmelons
- Mangoes
- Apricots
- Grapes
- Pomegranates
- Apples
- Squash
- Cucumbers
- Watermelons
Add 1 container garden in classroom
1. Exploring
2. Creating
3. Thinking
4. Sprouting

When a flower doesn't bloom you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower.

-Aaron Bougie