



Wild Schools Professional Development

The Wild Schools program focuses on professional development and support for school staff to grow outdoor and place-based learning that fosters being **WILD (Wondering, Inquiring, Learning, Doing)** about BC's biodiversity. The program is designed to be flexible and accommodate the individual needs and interests of staff that will support educators to build upon existing outdoor learning and explore new ideas.

Suggested Pathways

To help you define which pathway suits your school best, consider how comfortable most staff are with outdoor learning. Outdoor learning in the Wild Schools program develops environmental learning through student-centred, place-based experiences that connect students with nature and foster school participation in stewardship of BC's biodiversity. Need help? Contact your facilitator to discuss and identify which pathway fits your school best and define the next steps.

Majority of staff are new to outdoor learning	Some staff are experienced with outdoor learning	Majority of staff are experienced with outdoor learning
<p>YEAR 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Learning Engages Everyone Close Counts: School Grounds as a Place for Learning Exploring Place with Inquiry 	<p>YEAR 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Learning Engages Everyone Exploring Place with Inquiry Beyond the School Grounds: Nature Nearby 	<p>YEAR 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring Place with Inquiry Connections to Competencies & Assessment Strategies (coming soon)
<p>YEAR 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beyond the School Grounds: Nature Nearby Connections to Competencies & Assessment Strategies (coming soon) 	<p>YEAR 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connections to Competencies & Assessment Strategies (coming soon) Biodiversity in the School Grounds 	<p>YEAR 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity in the School Grounds A topic or theme-based workshop
<p>YEAR 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity in the School Grounds Exploring Biodiversity with Project-based Learning 	<p>YEAR 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring Biodiversity with Project-based Learning A topic or theme-based workshop 	<p>YEAR 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring Biodiversity with Project-based Learning A topic or theme-based workshop

For each year, select additional workshops to suit your needs

One Example of a Pathway for a 'Ready To Go' School

The teachers at this school are eager to GO, aka Get Outdoors!

Most teachers were new to outdoor learning but there were a few who were experienced in specialty areas. Even though there were a couple of teachers with some experience, they weren't sure where to start as a school and how to best support everyone on staff, new and experienced. They knew of numerous benefits of outdoor learning for students. Everyone had some ideas about what they could be doing but wondered what more they could be doing with a little help. Everyone was interested in wetlands because of one located nearby, but they were open to learn what else they might have been overlooking!

They were looking for:

- Experience the array of possibilities of outdoor learning to enhance what ideas they already have about what's possible, new or experienced
- New ways to see the playground and the school grounds
- How to empower students to explore and experience their surroundings with wonder
- More confidence and skills and add new tools to their outdoor learning toolbox
- More ideas on how to make the most use of the wetlands nearby without overlooking other features for outdoor learning
- Connections to curriculum and assessment strategies that would capture what they witnessed students were learning
- Learn about the connections and interrelationships among wetlands and biodiversity
- Possibilities for projects to choose from, and dive into a project in a manageable way
- Strategies for integrating student empowerment into caring for biodiversity in the shadows of climate change

In collaboration with their facilitator and HCTF Education, staff reflected on where they were at and where they were looking to develop their capacity (as individuals, and as a school) along with topics/themes important to them.

Here's the approach that was developed:

YEAR 1

- Outdoor Learning Engages Everyone
- Close Counts: School Grounds as a Place for Learning
- Exploring Place with Inquiry
- Wetlands

YEAR 2

- Beyond the School Grounds: Nature Nearby
- Connections to Competencies & Assessment Strategies
- Watersheds

YEAR 3

- Biodiversity in the School Grounds
- Exploring Biodiversity with Project-Based Learning
- Climate Change: Impacts and Adaptations



Note: The times indicated for each session are minimum recommended times but please confirm with your facilitator.

Introductory Program Session

Get Wild Out There

Whether you're new to outdoor learning or a seasoned explorer, this workshop will get you started with the Wild Schools program.

Wild Schools is a multi-year program to support teachers to engage students with meaningful learning that's outdoors and place-based. This session is about setting you up for Year 1.

You'll explore outdoor learning, what it means and how your experience with it supports learning. We'll look at where you're at by sharing what you already

do/have done. You'll exchange ideas about what you'd like to develop further and take note of some obstacles. We'll look at some examples of other Wild Schools to discover what made those successful and define some key ingredients for success you'd like to use in your school and classroom planning.

This will kick off your planning as a school, with support from your facilitator(s) and the team at HCTF Education. Together, we'll map out what you need to support your school's vision for engaging students with the Wild Schools program.



Foundation Workshops

HERE ARE THE RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE OF SESSIONS TO BUILD A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL TEACHING AND LEARNING.

Exploring Place with Inquiry

Strategies for learner-centred engagement

Step outside. Experience a place a few steps from the classroom, around the corner or further away. Explore how a particular place interests you and immerse yourself in learning about it, driven by your curiosity and questions.

This session is great for groups that have already done some outdoor learning. It's focused on teaching strategies that support student-centred learning. It's a great way to apply your experience with student-centred learning to your practice. We'll examine ways to use these teaching strategies that are readily available with outdoor learning to realise the benefits of place-based learning and inquiry with our students.

Biodiversity in the School Grounds

Examining and defining the features around us as resources for learning

Learn more about what's here and the interrelationships that make biodiversity a dynamic learning platform. Working in grade groupings, you'll examine practical ways to engage students and integrate biodiversity available

in the school grounds with learning outcomes. You'll get connected to a variety of relevant resources that were used to inform your session and develop their own lesson plans.

This session is a great way to begin identifying biodiversity content, specific to your school grounds, and how to integrate it with place-based, inquiry-based and student-centred learning strategies.

Beyond the School Grounds: Nature Nearby

Examining and defining the features around us as resources for learning

Learn more about what's nearby and the interrelationships that make biodiversity a dynamic learning platform. Working in grade groupings, you'll examine practical ways to engage students and integrate examples of biodiversity available in nearby natural areas, local parks, nature centres with learning outcomes. You'll get connected to a variety of relevant resources that were used to inform your session and develop their own lesson plans.

This session is a great way to begin identifying biodiversity content, specific to places in the neighbourhood, and how to integrate it with place-based, inquiry-based and student-centred learning strategies.

Note: The times indicated for each session are minimum recommended times but please confirm with your facilitator.

Close Counts: School Grounds as a Place for Learning

Discovering learning opportunities just out the door

Explore the school grounds guided by the individual and collective experience of the group. Use different lenses, including curricular competencies to see the familiar in new ways. Identify a variety of opportunities for learning, discuss ideas across grades and subjects. Exchange teaching strategies and collect tips for cross-curricular learning.

This session is a great way to build a foundation of some specific ways outdoor learning opportunities that are easy to access with your students, any day and even on a moment's notice. 'Field trips' to the school grounds are so convenient, you'll be able to integrate outdoor learning more easily and more often.

Connections to Competencies & Assessment Strategies

Examining competencies (core and curricular) and strategies for assessment with outdoor learning

Experience a selection of activities and debrief to identify cross-curricular ideas. Define opportunities for outdoor learning that align with core and curricular competencies. Discover the benefits of outdoor learning. Exchange strategies for assessment and collect tips for designing cross-curricular learning for your students.

This session highlights the importance of having time to talk, as colleagues. You'll get to do, think, debrief, discuss, suggest and hear ideas for integrating outdoor learning and biodiversity with teaching strategies for curriculum and assessment for learning.

Exploring Biodiversity Project-Based Learning

Fundamentals of empowering students to design and implement their project ideas

Experience a selection of activities and debrief these to discover the characteristics and benefits of project-based learning. Explore what ingredients are critical for success and collect tips for supporting students best.

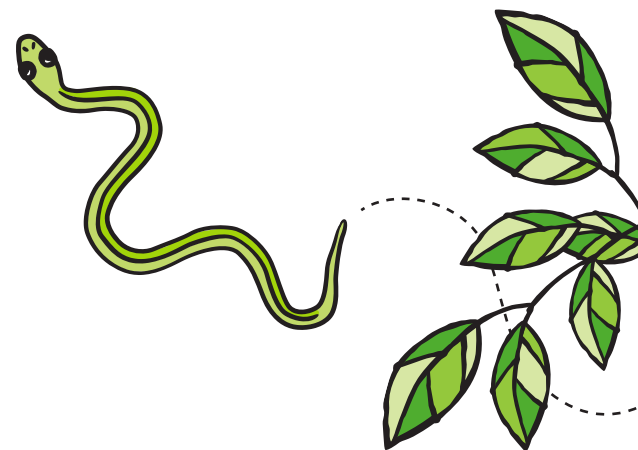
This session offers a great foundation for planning a project year. It is best to take this workshop anytime before the excitement of exploring project ideas.

Outdoor Learning Engages Everyone

Going outside is a great first step for engaging learners

Step outside. Experience the outdoors. Explore some open-ended activities. Discover how outdoor learning engages learners where they're at. Exchange adaptations and extensions to enhance these for your students. Leave with some outdoor teaching strategies to engage students with emergent learning and a variety of content.

This session is a great starting point for everyone. It builds on prior knowledge, no matter how limited or extensive. It demonstrates how these types of activities work across grades and learning styles. No experience with outdoor content or environmental topics is required.



Note: The times indicated for each session are minimum recommended times but please confirm with your facilitator.

Topic or Theme Workshops

THERE ARE MANY TOPIC OR THEME BASED WORKSHOPS CUSTOMIZED BASED ON YOUR SCHOOL'S NEEDS. HERE ARE A FEW IDEAS BELOW.

Climate Change

Exploring impacts and adaptations for water, trees and wildlife

The workshop on “Teaching About Climate Change: Water, Trees, and Wildlife” is designed to provide educators with the tools and resources they need to teach students about the impacts of climate change on the natural world. The workshop focuses on three key areas - water, trees, and wildlife - that are particularly vulnerable to climate change and explores ways to help students understand and address these issues. Participants will explore strategies for engaging students in discussions and activities around these topics, including hands-on experiments, field trips, and classroom projects.

DIY Outdoor Learning Kit

How to make a box of props and tools

Experience a selection of activities that showcase a variety of props and tools. Debrief how these support student learning and collect ideas for designing/assembling your own toolkit. Discuss ways to use these effectively, including identifying times when it's useful to learn, without props.

This session explores how props and tools affect outdoor learning, including how these enhance teaching strategies that support student-centred learning. It's great for those looking for ideas and want to develop a fuller understanding of how these work.

Note: The times indicated for each session are minimum recommended times but please confirm with your facilitator.

Watersheds

Watersheds are critical systems that impact the quality and availability of our water resources. In this workshop, educators will learn about the importance of watersheds, the factors that affect them, and strategies for protecting and preserving them. Participants will also engage in hands-on activities and explore ways to incorporate watershed education into their curriculum.

Wetlands

Wetlands are fascinating ecosystems that are often overlooked or undervalued, yet they play a vital role in the health of our planet. In this workshop, educators will learn about the ecological importance of wetlands, the threats they face, and strategies for protecting and restoring them. Participants will also engage in hands-on activities and explore ways to incorporate wetland education into their curriculum.

Other Ideas and Topics

- **Lets Go on A Field Trip**—A session that explores ideas, places and activities for planning and taking field outings to forests, grasslands and ponds, oceans.
- **Seeing Math and Literacy in Nature**—A session to explore connections and ideas for Mathematics and English Language Arts learning outside.
- **People and Plants**—A session exploring local and traditional plant knowledge and our connections to them and some ideas for native plant gardens.
- **PALS**—A session for people assisting learning in schools with strategies and ideas to support teaching and learning outdoors.



Activity Guide Workshops

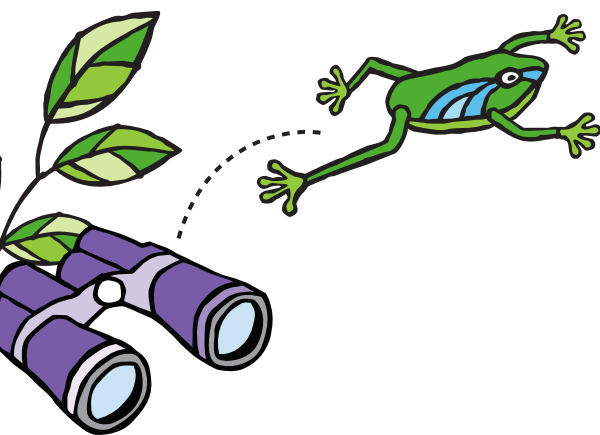
THESE ARE ACTIVITY GUIDE WORKSHOPS BASED ON RESOURCES HCTF EDUCATION DELIVERS FOR PROJECT WILD, PROJECT WET AND PROJECT LEARNING TREE.

Below Zero

This Below Zero workshop for teachers is a professional development opportunity aimed at providing educators with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively teach about winter ecology. The 3 hour workshop is designed to be interactive and hands-on, giving teachers the opportunity to engage with content, explore resources, and develop their own lesson plans. Participants will learn about the unique characteristics of winter ecosystems, including adaptations of plants and animals to cold and snow.

Explore Your Environment (Project Learning Tree)

Project Learning Tree's (PLT) Exploring Your Environment workshop is an interactive, hands-on professional development opportunity for K-12 educators to enhance their knowledge and skills in environmental education. The workshop is designed to empower educators to engage their students in exploring and understanding their local environment. During the workshop, participants learn how to use the local environment as a teaching tool and incorporate environmental education into their curriculum. They gain a better understanding of the ecosystems, natural resources, and environmental issues in their local area, and explore ways to connect classroom learning to real-world issues. Participants also learn how to foster critical thinking skills and environmental stewardship in their students.



Note: The times indicated for each session are minimum recommended times but please confirm with your facilitator.

Getting Little Feet WET (minimum 2 hours)

Project WET's Getting Little Feet WET program provides K-2 teachers with hands-on, interactive activities to teach young students about the importance of water and water resources. In this workshop, participants will explore the Getting Little Feet WET resource and learn how to use it effectively in their classrooms. Teachers will engage in hands-on activities, gain an understanding of the importance of water resources, and learn ways to teach about water in an engaging and developmentally appropriate way.

Growing Up WILD

Project WILD's Growing Up WILD is a resource designed for pre K-2 educators, which provides a set of activities and materials to engage young children in learning about nature and wildlife. The program aims to help children develop a sense of wonder and appreciation for the natural world around them, while also promoting early childhood education and development. The activities in Growing Up WILD are designed to be interactive, hands-on, and fun for young children. They cover a wide range of topics, including animals, plants, weather, and habitats, and are aligned with national education standards for science, math, and language arts.

Project WET

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is a workshop designed to educate and engage teachers, students, and community members about water resources and the importance of water conservation. The workshop provides hands-on activities, interdisciplinary lesson plans, and materials to enhance the understanding of water-related topics and issues. During the workshop, participants learn about the water cycle, watersheds, water quality, and water conservation strategies. They also explore how water is used in everyday life and how their actions can impact the water supply. The Project WET workshop is suitable for K-12 teachers, informal educators, youth group leaders, and community members interested in promoting water literacy and environmental stewardship. The workshop can be delivered in person or virtually and can be customized to fit the needs of specific audiences or regions.

Project WILD

The Project WILD (Wildlife in Learning Design) is a workshop designed to provide educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to engage students in learning about wildlife and the natural world. The workshop provides hands-on activities, interdisciplinary lesson plans, and materials to enhance the understanding of wildlife and their habitats. The Project WILD workshop is suitable for K-12 teachers, informal educators, youth group leaders, and community members interested in promoting environmental literacy and conservation education.

Trees and Me with Project Learning Tree: A Workshop for K-2 Teachers

Project Learning Tree's Trees and Me resource provides K-2 teachers with a variety of activities and lesson plans to engage young students in learning about trees and their importance. In this workshop, participants will explore the Trees and Me resource and learn how to use it effectively in their classrooms. Teachers will engage in hands-on activities, gain an understanding of the importance of trees, and learn ways to teach about trees in an engaging and developmentally appropriate way.



Note: The times indicated for each session are minimum recommended times but please confirm with your facilitator.