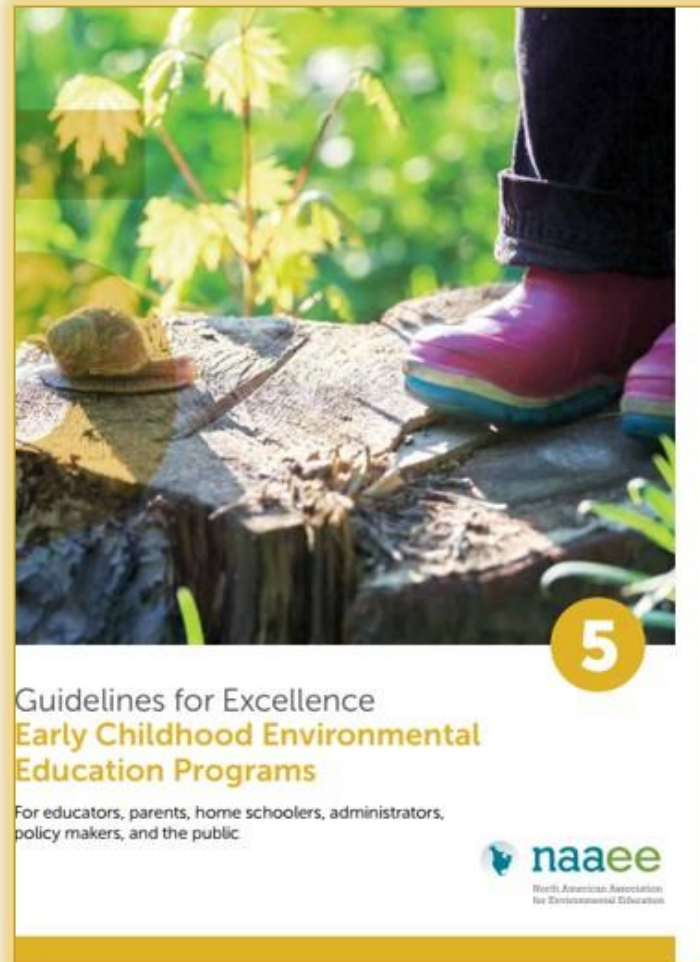


Early Childhood EE Programs: Guidelines for Excellence



Workshop Objectives





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for Environmental Education



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NAAEE: Who We Are

The professional association, champion, and backbone organization for the field of environmental education, working with a diverse group of educators in the United States, Canada, Mexico and in many other parts of the world to advance environmental education.



Primary Sponsors

U.S. EPA Office of
Environmental
Education



This workshop was . NT-83695801-0 awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It has not been formally reviewed by EPA. The views expressed are solely those of Bora Simmons and EPA does not endorse any products or commercial services mentioned.



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ee360+

Other Partners

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- State and Provincial EE Associations
- Organizational partners – such as Keep America Beautiful, Project Learning Tree, Arbor Day Foundation, Project WILD, Project WET

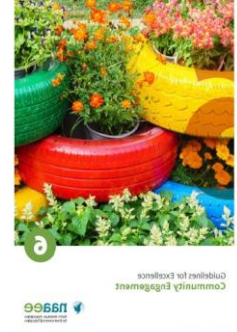
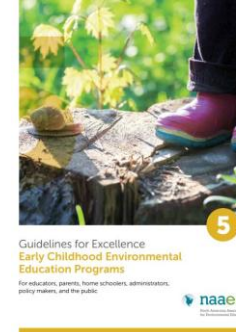


56 State, Regional, and Provincial Affiliates



Seven Sets of Guidelines

- EE Materials
- K-12 EE
- Environmental Educator Knowledge & Skills
- EE Programs
- Early Childhood EE Programs
- Community Engagement
- Climate Action & Justice



Excellence

Promoting excellence in environmental education



Our Collective Wisdom



- ▣ Developed *Guidelines* through a public participatory process
- ▣ Engaging educators in a deep discussion about quality environmental education practice
- ▣ Building EE as a profession

Essential Underpinnings



- Human Well-Being
- Importance of Where One Lives
- Integration & Infusion
- Justice, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion
- Lifelong Learning
- Roots in the Real World
- Sustainable Future
- Systems & Systems Thinking

Early Childhood Environmental Education Programs: Guidelines for Excellence



5

Guidelines for Excellence Early Childhood Environmental Education Programs

For educators, parents, home schoolers, administrators,
policy makers, and the public

Early childhood environmental education...



Allows children to construct their own learning through authentic experiences.

Early childhood environmental education supports...

Social-emotional development through play and exploration.



Early childhood environmental education supports...

Development of early literacy, artistic expression, & aesthetic appreciation.



Early childhood environmental education supports...

Physical development
of fine and gross
motor skills.



Early childhood environmental education supports...



Development of a sense of wonder & an appreciation for the beauty of the natural world.



Early childhood environmental education...



Is planned with the
whole child and
every child in mind.

Early Childhood Environmental Education Programs: Guidelines for Excellence



5

Guidelines for Excellence Early Childhood Environmental Education Programs

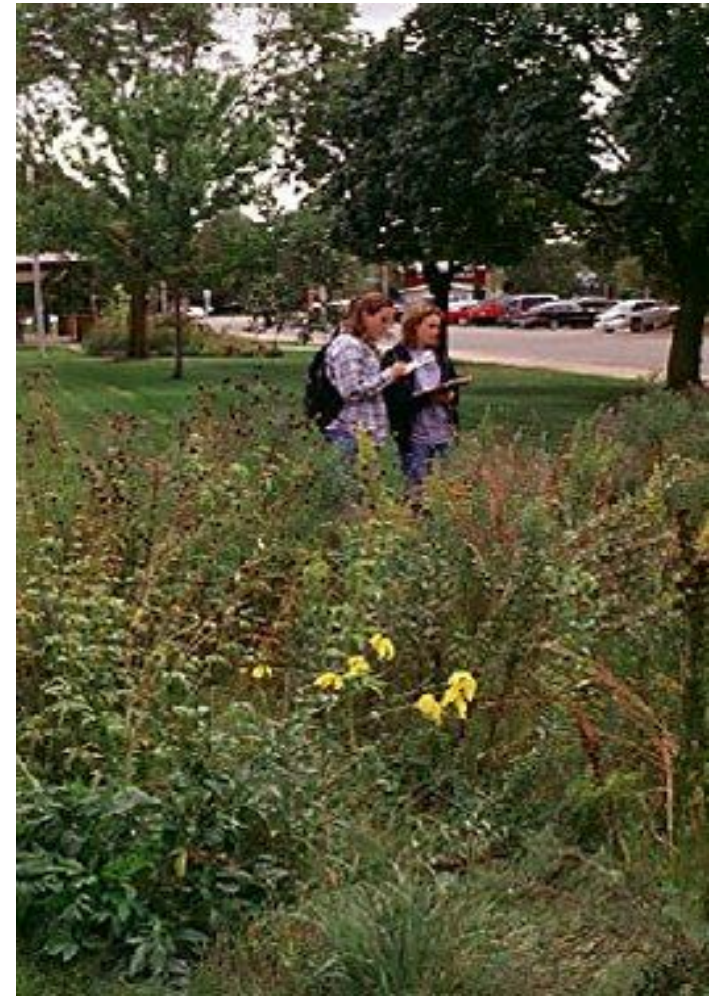
For educators, parents, home schoolers, administrators,
policy makers, and the public

Early Childhood EE Programs: Guidelines for Excellence

- A Resource that provides:
 - Recommendations for developing and implementing high quality early childhood EE programs
 - Birth to 8-year olds, focus on ages 3 to 6
- Developed through a broad-based review and comment process

Key Characteristic

- **Guidelines**
 - ❖ Indicators
 - ❖ Indicators
- **Boxes with Examples**
- **References**



Six Key Characteristic

- Program philosophy, purpose & development
- Developmentally appropriate practices
- Play & exploration
- Curriculum framework for environmental learning
- Places & spaces
- Educator preparation



Diving into the Guidelines

In your small group:

- Become familiar with your assigned Key Characteristic
- Be prepared to provide a 2-3 minute summary/overview of your Key Characteristic to the other participants
- Provide examples from your own practice.



Program Philosophy, Purpose, & Development

- 1.1 Focus on nature & the environment
- 1.2 Focus on education of young children
- 1.3 Culturally appropriate goals, objectives, & practices



Program Philosophy, Purpose, & Development



1.4 Environmental literacy

1.5 Health & safety

1.6 Evaluation & assessment

1.7 Partnerships

1.8 Interpersonal & intergenerational relationships

Developmentally Appropriate Practices

2.1 Research & theory

2.2 Authentic
experiences

2.3 Child-centered/
directed & inquiry-
based

2.4 The whole child



Play and Exploration

3.1 Natural world &
natural materials

3.2 Play & the role of
adults



Curriculum Framework for Environmental Learning

4.1 Social & emotional growth

4.2 Curiosity & questioning

4.3 Development of
environmental
understandings



Curriculum Framework for Environmental Learning

4.4 Skills for understanding the environment

4.5 A personal sense of responsibility & caring

4.6 Physical health & development



Places and Spaces



5.1 Spaces & places to enhance development

5.2 Natural components

5.3 Comfortable for both children & adults

Places and Spaces

5.4 Maintenance & usability

5.5 Health, safety, & risk

5.6 Environmental sustainability



Educator Preparation

6.1 Foundations of
early childhood EE

6.2 Professional
responsibilities of
the educator

6.3 Environmental
literacy



Educator Preparation



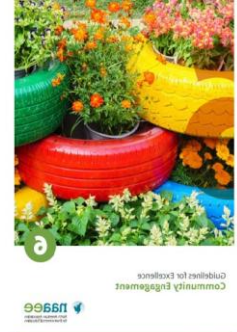
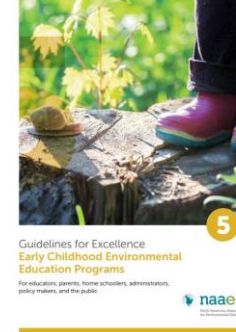
6.4 Planning &
implementing EE

6.5 Fostering learning

6.6 Assessment &
evaluation

For more information and to download PDF

<https://naaee.org/programs/guidelines-excellence>



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Focus Feature



BLOG
[Recognizing Excellence in EE at the College and University Level](#)

Deadline: April 15 -- NAAEE has launched an exciting new initiative designed to formally recognize distinguished college and university environmental education programs that are developing the kinds of environmental educators we need in the field. Graduates of these programs are experiencing curriculum and training that will translate to best practices in EE across a variety of learning contexts.

 **BY BORA SIMMONS** | FEBRUARY 16, 2016
[Guidelines for Excellence](#)

Groups



EE Central



Advocacy



Affiliates



Climate Change Education



Connecting to Nature



Conservation and Behavior Change



Diversity Equity and Inclusion



Early Childhood EE



EE in Urban Settings



Green Schools

Spotlight



Albert 'Abby' Ybarra
Environmental Education Consultant, Project Indigenous
I'm passionate about engaging students in traditional Native

Questions?





THANK YOU!



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