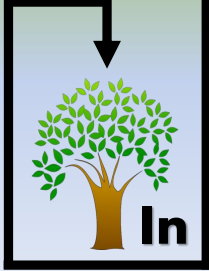# Bringing the Outside In

Creating Nature-Based Classrooms:
Breaking the Aesthetic Code

Sandra Duncan, EdD & Jody Martin

The Best Job of All

The Best Job of All

Your Childhood Space

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Share Your Story

Where?

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Your Childhood Space

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Your Memory was <u>Beautiful</u>

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<u>Nature</u> Instills Beauty

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<u>Beauty</u> Instills Wonder

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Wonder is Intertwined with Emotions

Wonder-based Teaching: A Startup Guide (www.fairydustteaching.com)

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Emotional Connections & Memories

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Experiencing Deeply

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Experiencing Deeply

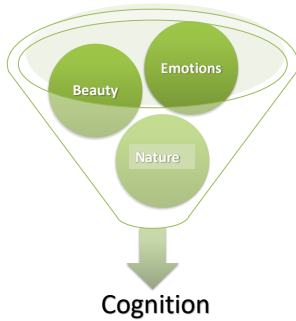*PLACE is a piece of the environment that has been claimed by feelings. We are homesick for places . . .*

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

--Alan Gussow
Artist & Naturalist

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Beauty = Nature = Cognition

Emotions

Beauty

Nature

Cognition

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Breaking the Aesthetic Code

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10/9/2018

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.

Breaking the Aesthetic Code

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Breaking the Aesthetic Code

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Bringing the Outside In

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Getting Started – Going Outside

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Getting Started – Going Outside

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Getting Started – Going Outside

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Getting Started – Going Outside

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Bringing the Outside In

BRINGING THE
Outside In

*Ideas for Creating
Nature-Based Classroom
Experiences for
Young Children*

by Sandra Duncan, EdD and Jody Martin

1. Exploring

2. Creating

3. Thinking

4. Sprouting
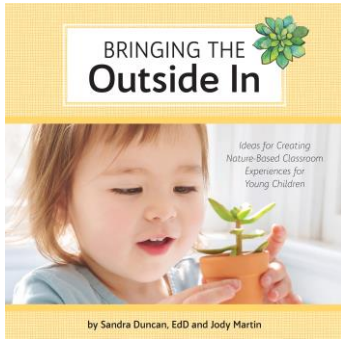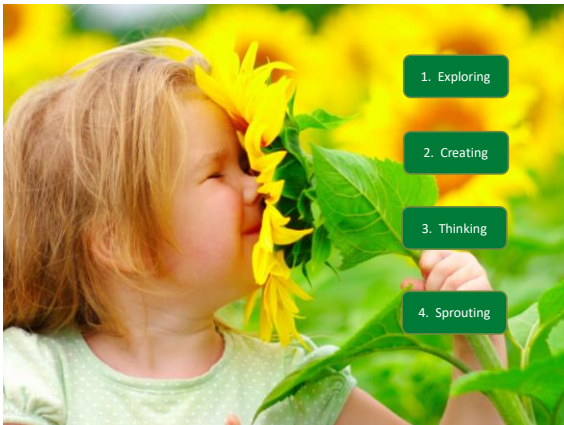
#1: Exploring

Exploring

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

Pond Jar

Shake a Shrub

Shake a Shrub
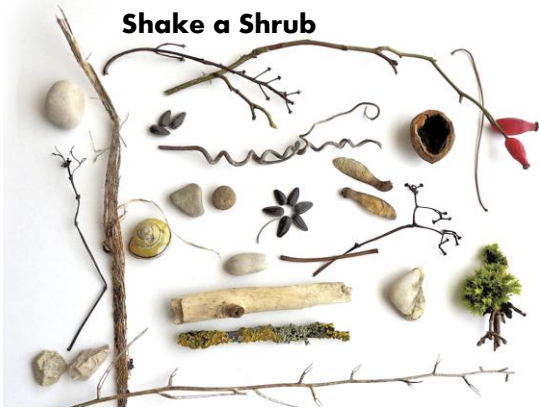
Classroom Natural Museums

Classroom Natural Museums

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Nature Chair

See any birds?

My Land

Duct Tape Nature

Challenge

Add **1** outside element to each learning center

#2: Creating

Creating

- ✓ **Textures**
- ✓ **Patterns**
- ✓ **Colors**
- ✓ **Size**
- ✓ **Shape**

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Look . . . and You Will See

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Magnificent Mandalas

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Magnificent Mandala

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Magnificent Mandala

Mandala

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Tree Cookie Weaving

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Sticky Sticks

Twiggy Easel

Painting with Kitchen Scraps

Paint Brushes

Painting Nature

Painting Nature

Painting Nature

Painting Nature

Painting Nature
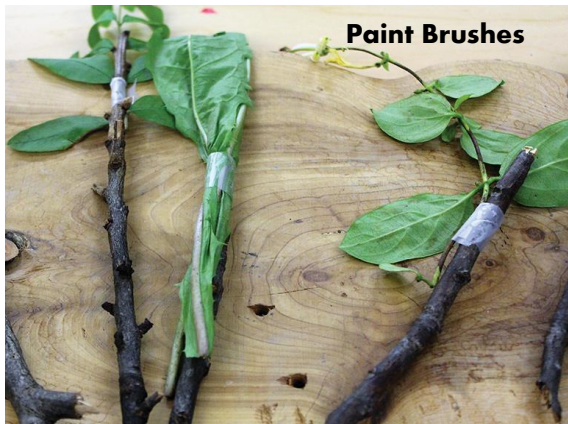
Challenge

Eliminate construction paper.

Go Paperless

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

#3: Thinking

Thinking

✓Problem Solving
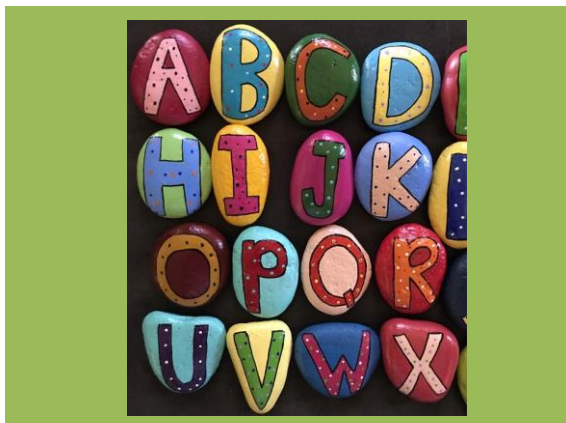✓Discovery Making
✓Collaborating
✓Investigating

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Seashell Count

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Seashell Sort

SMOOTH   ROUGH

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Story Stones

Natural Manipulatives

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

Challenge

Add **1** natural manipulative to each center
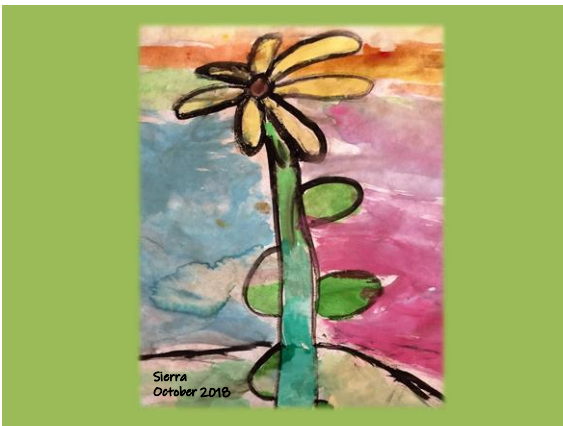
#4: Sprouting

Sprouting

✓ **Intricate Patterns**
✓ **Dazzling Colors**
✓ **Wonder of Growth**
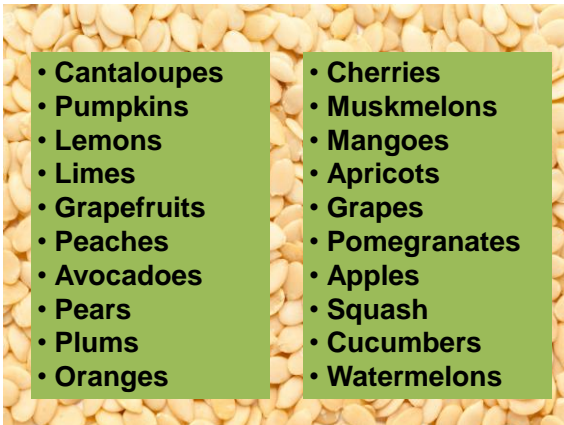
Sierra
October 2018

Apple Sunflower Seed Snack

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

- Cherries
- Muskmelons
- Mangoes
- Apricots
- Grapes
- Pomegranates
- Apples
- Squash
- Cucumbers
- Watermelons

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www.wallygro.com

www.wallygro.com

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Suitcase

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Drawer

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Drawer

Water Bottles

Challenge

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.
- Alexander Den Heijer
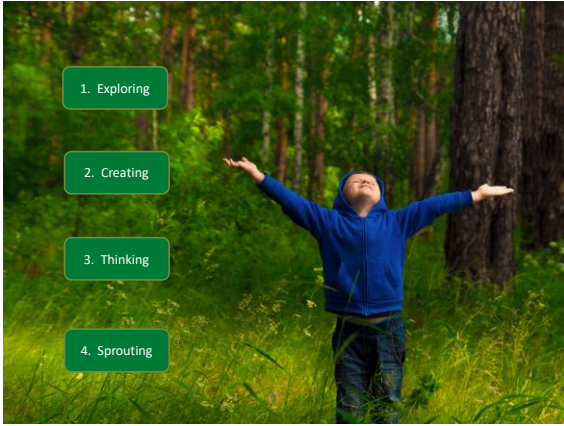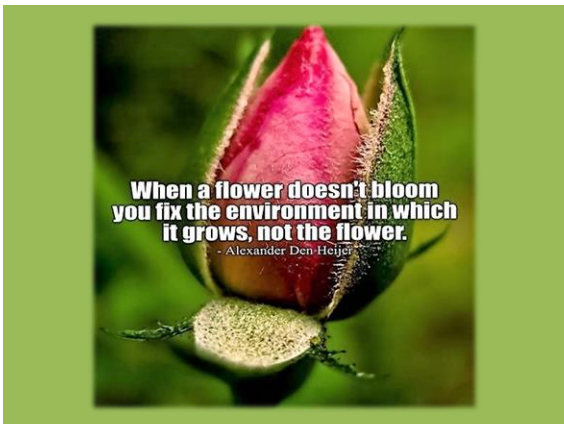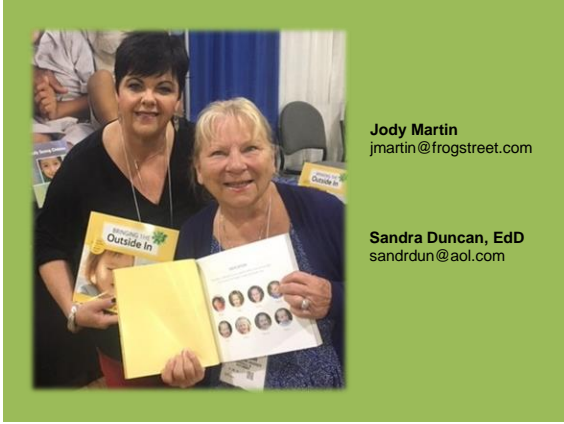
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