

THE PARTNERS

- ☑ Area Educators and Naturalists
- ☑ Child Care Resource & Referral: Mid-Sioux
- ☑ Creative Ventures
- ☑ Dickinson County Conservation Board and Foundation
- ☑ Early Childhood Iowa: Lakes Region
- ☑ Friends of Lakeside Laboratory
- ☑ Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- ☑ Iowa Lakeside Laboratory and Regents Resource Center
- ☑ Prairie Lakes AEA
- ☑ UDMO Head Start/Early Head Start

We also thank the Patrice & Rita Leary Foundation for their support.



"Stump Exploration"

"Nature Play"



NATURE CONNECTIONS

of Northwest Iowa

Contact: Jane Shuttleworth

Education Coordinator

Phone: 712.337.3669 x7

Email: jane-shuttleworth@uiowa.edu

www.friendsoflakesidelab.org/connections.html

Facebook: Nature Connections Institute

NATURE CONNECTIONS

of Northwest Iowa



"Meeting children's developmental needs while introducing them to life-long, meaningful relationships with nature."

NATURE CONNECTIONS of Northwest Iowa

WHO WE ARE

We are a collaborative of early childhood educators, professionals, naturalists and environmental educators dedicated to introducing children to a life-long, healthy relationship with nature while meeting their physical, emotional, and cognitive needs.



Together, we represent nearly a dozen public, private and non-profit organizations and agencies from across Northwest Iowa.

WHAT WE DO

We provide professional development opportunities for early childhood teachers, childcare providers, administrators and professionals on integrating nature and the outdoors into their learning environments.

Recent courses and workshops have included:

- Outdoors - Lets Explore! Institute,
- Patrice & Rita Leary Early Childhood Environmental Education Fellowship,
- Kinder Nature Teacher Workshops.

We also collaborate to provide year round nature-based experiences and day camp opportunities for children and families.



WHY WE DO IT

A growing body of research links childrens' mental, physical and spiritual health directly to positive association with nature.



"Tree Treasures"

Some of the specific benefits of outdoor play include stronger concentration and impulse control, emotional coping and stress reduction, increased fitness and reduction in childhood obesity, creative play, and resiliency.

"Woosy Wonders"