

Nature Preschools in the United States: Results of a New National Survey**May 31, 2023****Link to the recording:** <https://youtu.be/3CoXsFxoPUk>**eePRO post:** <https://eeepro.naaee.org/learning/nature-preschools-united-states-results-new-national-survey>**Speakers:** Christy Merrick, Director, Natural Start Alliance and Emily Van Laan, Conference and Communications Specialist, Natural Start Alliance**Highlights of the chat transcript:****Welcome and Introductions!**

- Emily Van Laan: Hi and welcome everyone! We are excited to share with you today!
- Marisa Saelzler: Marisa Saelzler, Dublin City Schools, Ohio
- Kendra Penry: Kendra Penry, Stokes Nature Center, Logan, UT
- Allison Mackley: Allison Mackley, Berks Nature in Reading, PA
- Tracy Marnon: Tracy Marnon, The Fowler Center/MCHS Family of Services
- Ricks: Bethany Ricks, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Minnesota
- Sherry Ly Ching Chen King: Sherry Ly Ching Chen King, Gaffney, SC
- Melisa Dennison: Melisa Dennison, Huntington, WV
- Jennifer Gauble: Jennifer Gauble, Saint Louis Zoo, Missouri
- Christie McKelvie: Christie McKelvie, Rooted & Free Nature School - near Hershey, PA
- Mary Rouse: Mary Rouse, Cleveland Metroparks
- Catelynn Kenner: Michelle Robertson, First 5 Santa Barbara County, CA
- Gretchen Shissler: Gretchen Shissler, Forest Academy, Lafayette, IN
- Laura Rogers: Greetings from Lansing MI!
- RUBY ESTRADA: Santa Fe Public Schools, Santa Fe, NM
- Mary Sebastian: Mary Sebastian, Omaha, NE
- Linda Hestenes: Hello everyone from Greensboro, NC
- Kirsten Haugen: Kirsten Haugen, Nature Explore & Exchange Press, Eugene, Oregon
- Sarah Watrud: Sarah Watrud- Schuylkill Center Nature Preschool, Philadelphia, PA
- Claire Underwood: Claire Underwood, UMD - Duluth MN!
- Dianne Rose: Dianne Rose, Hunters Woods Cooperative Preschool, Reston, VA
- Erica Anton: Erica Anton and Jennifer Lukacs - Cleveland Metroparks Nature Preschool - OHIO!!!!
- Rachel Fort: Rachel Fort, Portland, Oregon
- Caroline Clark: Caroline, Weinstein JCC Richmond VA
- Kelly Rose: Kelly from Four Seasons Nature Preschool in Omaha Nebraska
- Maria Pickerill: Maria, ODNR, Columbus OH!

- Melissa Reid: Melissa from Elachee Nature Academy in GA.
- Meg Gravit: Meg Gravit, Eastern Kentucky University, in Lexington KY
- Sadie Smith: Sadie Smith, Bowdoin College, Brunswick ME
- Leonard Kenyon: Len Kenyon from Maine
- Chip Murrow: Chip Murrow, Des Moines, Iowa
- Kelli Kennon-Lane: Kelli from Cedar Rapids, IA
- Diane Lill: Hi, Judy! Diane Lill, Washington DC
- wendolyn bird: Wendolyn Bird from Fairfax, ca used to run a 100% outdoor nomadic preschool now I am a Nature-Infused coach for parents and teachers
- Tarneshia Evans: Tarneshia Evans Richmond VA Weinstein JCC
- Denise Copock: Denise Coppock Washington state
- Karen Wurst: Karen Wurst, The Wonder Years Learning Center, Wilmington MA
- Mary Traub: Mary Traub from Princeton, New Jersey
- Mac Dungan: Mac Dungan, Forest Service Conservation Education, DC
- Corey Zimmerman: Corey Zimmerman, Center on the Developing Child at Harvard, zooming in from Arlington, MA. Hi everybody!
- Lauren Lowther: Lauren Lowther, Nova Scotia, Canada!
- Sue Elliott: Sue Elliott, Australia
- Ronda Hawkins: Southern Pines, NC
- Carol Rasowsky: Carol - Boynton Beach, Florida
- Sharon Young: Sharon Young, Outdoor Classroom Coordinator, Houston, TX
- Carrie Albright: Carrie Albright, Bloomington, Indiana
- Tracy Marnon: Tracy Marnon, The Fowler Center, Mayville, MI
- Mary Sebastian: Mary Sebastian, Omaha, NE Four Seasons Nature Preschool
- Julie Harris: Julie Cleveland Ohio
- Asa Duffee: I'm Asa with the Association of Nature Center Administrators, working from Yellow Springs, Ohio 😊
- Felicia Wilburn: Felicia Wilburn, E. D. Nixon Elementary, Montgomery, Alabama
- Jennifer Johnson: Jennifer Johnson, Sci-Port Discovery Center Shreveport LA
- Shelly Blanton: Shelly Blanton - Double Springs, Alabama
- Susan Simmons: Susan Simmons from Arizona
- Hyesue Cho: hyesue Cho, Gaithersburg, MD
- Nilda Cosco: Raleigh, North Carolina
- Kim Murphy: Kim Murphy, The Nature Place, Reading PA
- Betty Olivolo: Betty Olivolo, Natural Start Alliance, living in Kittery, ME.
- Julia Billings: Julia Billings, Haines, Alaska
- Ellen Doris: Ellen Doris - Antioch University New England in Keene, NH

- Jenny Carrier: Jenny Carrier from Kasson, MN
- Lisa Biasillo: Lisa from San Diego
- Rebecca McCafferty: Garret Williamson PBE-Early Learning Centre in Newtown Sq. PA (just outside of Philly)
- Leigh OBrien: Leigh O'Brien from western NY (recently retired from SUNY Geneseo)
- Mike Hill: Mike Hill, Forest Service in DC.
- Megan Gessler: Megan Gessler, Illinois
- Beth Stein: Beth Stein, Oregon
- Elizabeth Boileau: Elizabeth Boileau, University of Minnesota Duluth
- Daniella Rodriguez: Daniella joining from Blue Hill, ME
- Kerry Kippen: Kerry Kippen from Napanee, Ontario, Canada
- Rod Diercks: Rod Diercks, Doane University, Crete, NE
- Christine Alden: Christine Alden, Lawson Foundation in Canada
- Sarah Bell: Sarah Bell, Elachee Nature Science Center, Gainesville, GA
- Nicole Corbo: 🙌 Nicole Corbo, Roots & Sky Nature-Based Learning (and Washington Nature Preschool Association) on Coast Salish ancestral lands in WA state.
- Deepti Kharod: Hello Everyone! Deepti Kharod from Univ of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio TX
- Amanda Vincent: Amanda Vincent, Indian Creek Nature Center in Cedar Rapids
- Monika Marszalek: Monika Marszalek Alamance Partnership for Children , NC
- Deb King: Deb King
- Beth Theisen: Beth, Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District, Lima, Ohio
- John Flicker: John Flicker in New York
- Deb King: Deb King/ Windham Maine/ A Child's World
- Emily Van Laan: Shout out to the amazing preschools that shared their photos with us! These photos are all from actual nature preschools around the country.
- Katie Pollock: The UD Lab School is here and so thrilled to be involved!
- Emily Van Laan: Hi Katie! And thanks to UD Lab School for sharing wonderful photos :)
- Suzanne Burns: Hello from Suzanne Burns and Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center Preschool!
- Jeannine Sumner: Hello, Jenn Sumner Pre-K at Otisfield Community School.
- Gay O'Hanlon: Hi, Gay O'Hanlon, PRe K teacher at The Village School, Milton, MA
- Allison Martin: Hello!, Allison Pillmear-Martin, Iredell County Partnership for Young Children, NC

- Robin Moore: Warm greetings from the Natural Learning Initiative, NC State.
<https://naturalearning.org/>
- Danielle Racke: Danielle Racke, Facilitator and Consultant - Explore Nature By Nurture, Lynchburg, VA

Intro: What is Nature Preschool?

- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Survey Website: <https://naturalstart.org/nature-preschools-united-states-2022-survey>
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: naturalstart.org
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Learn more about early childhood environmental education at eeWORKS: https://naaee.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/eeworks-ecce_benefits.pdf
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: The report has the citations for these studies if you'd like to check them out.
- Danielle Gorman: Do we have a basic definition or understanding of what we mean by "nature" and "nature preschools"?
- Emily Van Laan: Thank you, Betty!
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Betty!
- Patti Bonnin: Hello – I'm Patti Bonnin from the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center. I am the preschool coordinator :)
- Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: Thanks to John Flicker, who is on the webinar, who has been a HUGE supporter of nature preschools and environmental education. Thank you for everything, John!
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: +1 John Flicker!!!
- Betty Olivolo: What is a Nature Preschool: <https://naturalstart.org/nature-preschool/what-is-a-nature-preschool>
- Jeannine Sumner: Can we have a copy of the slides?
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Yes, we'll share the slides and the recording after
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: 1
- Emily Van Laan: Thank you, John, for being here! And an enormous thank you to the Storer Foundation for the many years of support!
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: You can download the Guidebook introduction here: <https://naturalstart.org/nature-based-preschool-professional-practice-guidebook>
- Jeannine Sumner: Thank you!
- Kathleen Doffermyre: +1 For John Flicker
- Maggie Sandmann: I am starting my forest school in the fall, Cabarrus County.
- Asa Duffee: Shoutout to nature centers! 😊

- Allison Martin: Maggie - would I be able to reach out to you?
- Natural Start Alliance and Guidelines
- Betty Olivolo: Maggie (and everyone), if you haven't joined the Alliance, it's free! Join here: <https://naturalstart.org/user/register>
- Maggie Sandmann: yes please do!
- Lea Dreux: reppin the home based infant and toddler nature based programs!
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: The 2022 survey and past surveys are available here: <https://naturalstart.org/nature-preschools-united-states-2022-survey>
- Maggie Sandmann: i am joining today after this webinar!
- Olivia Drabiak: Was the guidebook available for free?
- Nicole Corbo: @Olivia the intro to the Guidebook is free to download
- Maggie Sandmann: Lea I will be home based programs, for ages 3-6!
- Diane Kroll: Diane Kroll Seattle, Wa Design for Early Learning
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: You can download the Guidebook introduction here: <https://naturalstart.org/nature-based-preschool-professional-practice-guidebook>
- Lea Dreux: oh yay Maggie! it's THE BEST!
- Betty Olivolo: If you want to purchase the Guidebook, it's here: <https://naturalstart.org/nature-based-preschool-professional-practice-guidebook>
- Anne Stires: Hi All!!! Anne Stires from coastal/midcoast region of Maine (lands and waters of the Wabanaki). I am an independent, nature connection and outdoor learning consultant and also work for Antioch University's Nature-based Certificate Program and for Maine Early Childhood Outdoors, a professional nature-based EC network (<https://maineaeyc.org/meeco>). www.annestires.com SOOO excited about this webinar! Hooray for the Natural Start Alliance!
- Maggie Sandmann: COncord, Cabarrus County, NC, where are you all?
- Jaclyn Stallard: Thanks! Emily - Curriculum Advisor with PLT. I am happy to share some links from Project Learning Tree in the chat here
- Allison Martin: Maggie - I am in Mecklenburg and would love to connect!
- Angie Rekers: maybe not early intervention, though. We are working on a whole health and human services model for early intervention outdoors here at St. Ambrose.
- Lea Dreux: yes! I would love some link from PLT!
- Betty Olivolo: Sure, Jackie, please share.
- Maggie Sandmann: Find me on Facebook and send me a message, Maggie Sandmann
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: 800!!!!
- Allison Martin: 📞

- Jaclyn Stallard: Here's a link to check out PLT's early childhood curriculum, Trees & Me. <https://www.plt.org/curriculum/preschool-learning-experiences-trees-nature/>

The growth of preschools and where they're located.

- Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: HUGE growth! YAY!!!!
- Kristen Langlais: Yay VERMONT!
- Anne Stires: go maine!!!!
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: 😊
- Elizabeth Boileau: MN 🙌
- Felicia Wilburn: What about the hot southern states? Nature preschools in Alabama?
- Deepti Kharod: YAY- Will Smith Zoo School!
- Erika Rutz: Texas! We love our ice sensory bins
- Maggie Sandmann: Any other Cedarsong teachers here?
- Kiana Njoku-Ibe: I teach special education and I already have to do the cleaning and lugging and I'm not in a nature based school. I cant imagine the learning benefits if we included the kids in the process
- Deepti Kharod: I wonder which states have had the most growth in new nature preschools or number of children enrolled in them. Did the survey look into that?
- Tusabe Richard: Great learnings here, it's very interesting to be brought to Uganda here, an African country. I love the program so far. Richard.
- Christy Merrick: Hi Deepti! Unfortunately, we didn't get into that level of detail of state-by-state changes.
- Deepti Kharod: Hi Christy! So good to see you- and thanks for the answer. 😊
- Nicole Corbo: Hey, @Maggie Sandmann! Yay, Cedarsong!!
- Maggie Sandmann: Hey Nicole!! Yay Cedarsong!!!!!!!!!!

Licensing

- Kristen Langlais: Licensing 'rules' need to change ;)
- Anne Stires: Yes! Nature Preschools in Uganda! What is possible?
- Mina Lombard: Mina here from Blooming Good Nature School in South Africa...we're the first 100% fully outdoor urban beach & nature preschool since 2015. We partner with the City in SA and licensed through the Forest School Teacher Institute in Tennessee. We're working on licensing in SA! Its wonderful seeing how more programs are developing globally.
- Jenny Carrier: If you have prek in the public school system how does that work with licensing? Licensing is only needed for childcare programs in MN.
- Anne Stires: Amazing, Mina!!

- Deepti Kharod: I wonder if NAEYC can help with this...changing expectations around licensing, too?
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: This recent article in the Hechinger Report and Washington Post covers outdoor preschool licensing in Maryland:
<https://hechingerreport.org/for-preschoolers-after-the-pandemic-more-states-say-learn-outdoors/>
- Anne Stires: Maine is looking at an addendum to current licensing regulations...stay tuned.
- Erica Tappan: ERAFANS has a great explanation of how the progress they made to get Maryland licensed outdoors.
- Maggie Sandmann: Mina, My husband was born and raised in Cape Town. he will be ecstatic to hear about your program! ill see if i can send some cousins your way!
- Anne Stires: Could you put the link to this video into the chat, Emily or Anne? TY!
- Betty Olivolo: In Maine, Maine AEYC is very involved in MeECO
- Deepti Kharod: Great information & tips from so many people!
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Here's a link to the full video from the Washington State Dept of Children, Youth, and Families about their outdoor preschool licensing option:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S0qFKTwXeWA&t=610s>
- Anne Stires: Ty!!
- Mike Hill: Does licensing help with getting program insurance?
- Erica Tappan: <https://www.erafans.org/OPL-MD>
- Mina Lombard: Thanks Anne and Maggie! :-)
- Vanessa Barela, NMPED: In NM it depends on if they are a part of the public school system or their own group.
- Emily Van Laan: If you are interested in learning more about licensing, please contact us at info@naturalstart.org so we can connect you with Kit!
- Katie Pollock: Mina - I studied abroad in South Africa through University of Delaware. We are still doing this study abroad program almost 20 years ago and I would love to connect here is my email: kpolllock@udel.edu
- Aliza Yair: Hi folks - I'm here if there are questions about WA.
- Mike Hill: Wondering how many schools are connected to k-8 schools?
- Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: Thanks to everyone for your comments in the chat!
- Betty Olivolo: And I lived in Cape Town for 3 years. Mina, please join the Alliance, if you haven't already.
- Jaclyn Stallard: Here is PLT's correlation to the Natural Start Professional Practice Guidebook <https://www.plt.org/wp->

[content/uploads/pdf/PLT_TreesAndMe_NSA_Correlations.pdf](#) - We are proud to illustrate how our work is connected!

- Anne Stires: Happy to support in any way I can in terms of this—
anne@annestires.com
- Aliza Yair: WA has a template/example agreement between programs and parks...
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Such great questions. Add your questions here, and we'll get to as many as we can today.
- wendolyn bird: I started my 100% outdoor nomadic preschool in 1996. I now am a coach for forest and nature based teachers and parents. I am happy to aid you with the ins and outs of starting a forest school. All the best to you all
- Denise Copock: I am a licenser from Washington state and would be happy to assist with questions or forward you to someone who can help. The DCYF website also has a lot of information.
- wendolyn bird: OOpps wendolyn bird www.wendolynbird.com
- Kristen Langlais: Will this zoom recording be available for me to share w/ our non-profit board members?
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Yes, we'll share the recording later this week.
- Rachel Larimore: Thanks for the shoutout 😊 <https://www.samarael.com/start>

Resources and Connections

- Anne Stires: Denise and Aliza, I would love to connect you with Maine supervisors of DHHS Child Care Licensing. I will reach out via email.
- Leonard Kenyon: Hi Rachel!
- Courtney Ryan: Hooray to Rachel! A wealth of knowledge through books and workshops. (Courtney from Cincinnati, Ohio)
- Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: We will also be sharing the chat so you have access to the experts and links included there. So many great people to connect with!
- Anne Stires: Fabulous.
- Allison Martin: Thank you!!
- Deepti Kharod: Very exciting to see the quantity and quality of growth.
- Maggie Sandmann: wendolyn, where are you located?
- Nicole Corbo: I support schools and programs wanting to engage in meaningful outdoor nature-based learning for PK through HS. Please reach out:
nicole@rootsandskylearning.org rootsandskylearning.org
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Secret Forest....what a great name!
- Anne Stires: These stories are the best. Thank you so much.

- Claire Underwood: Go Meghan and Secret forest play school! Meghan was just recognized for her work as Duluth's 20 under 40!!
- Claire Underwood: https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/2022-20-under-40?fbclid=IwAR1KyTgl4Yn4IIGRk0vxETNFEu_NuabvW0IIIFXvMx5g5NsgCADtvbdTWGY
- Nicole Corbo: Nature is for everyone!! ❤️
- Maggie Sandmann: From personal experience, Nicole Corbo is an expert in the field, has a huge heart and such a kind spirit. :)
- Elizabeth Boileau: Hi Claire! Thanks for sharing the article!
- wendolyn bird: HI MS I am in Fairfax CA and support folks around the world. connect@wendolynbird.com. I would love to hear more of what you are doing 😊
- Mina Lombard: All done Betty! I also teach with Forest Teacher in Tennessee and we're part of Erafans etc. We've started the foundations for an African Nature School Alliance so that teachers can be trained here from next year. I had to go to the US to do my training as there isn't any teacher training facility/opportunity in Africa.
- Nicole Corbo: That's amazing, Mina!!
- Nicole Corbo: and thank you so much, Maggie ❤️
- Deepti Kharod: It would be interesting to also know about military children...has anyone seen work about this topic?
- Danielle Gorman: What is the average ratio teacher:student in these programs?
- Nicole Corbo: Yes! Licensing is a critical first step in addressing issues with equity and access... and we have big work to do.
- Mike Hill: How quickly is the field moving toward professional accreditation like in Europe?
- kisha Reid: YAY Atiya!
- Kim Murphy: Love those little bee keepers! :)
- Nicole Corbo: +1 Yay, Atiya!!
- Vanessa Barela, NMPED: I'm curious about pay equity that helps support diversity for the workforce. In my experience as an Indigenous/Latina woman I have been paid half of my White Male peers.
- Jeannine Sumner: I would love to visit a Maine program that has a nature preschool. I work in Otisfield Maine.
- Jeannine Sumner: Pre-K
- Sue Elliott: Any data on qualifications of staff?
- Nicole Corbo: yes, Vanessa!! despicable.
- Betty Olivolo: Jeannine--if you give me your email, I can share the Maine nature preschools we have in our database.

- Mina Lombard: So true Christy! Agree!
- Jeannine Sumner: J.sumner@msad17.org thank you!
- Jaclyn Stallard: PLT working hard to learn about, promote, and encourage the journeys of black professionals in green careers. We have published 22 stories in a new volume (free download available) <https://www.plt.org/journeys>
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Natural Start's training page: <https://naturalstart.org/professional-development>
- Nicole Corbo: Thanks, Jaclyn!!
- Betty Olivolo: If you are providing a professional development opportunity, please post it here: <https://naturalstart.org/node/add/event>
- Anne Stires: Maine Early Childhood Outdoors is offering a workshop at the Natural Start Alliance conference this summer about how we started the network and what we are doing now. We will share a lot of resources so you can start one in your places!!!

Closing and final remarks

- Julie Harris: Thank you!!!!
- Christie McKelvie: Thank you!
- Mina Lombard: Thank you!!!
- Anne Stires: <https://maineaeyc.org/meeco>
- Deepti Kharod: @Jaclyn - great work on minorities in nature-related work!
- Kim Murphy: This is amazing work, thank you so much!! :)
- Jeannine Sumner: Thank you!
- Gay O'Hanlon: Thank you so much!
- Allison Martin: Thank you!!!!!!!
- Rachel Larimore: Thanks, Christy & Emily!
- Anne Stires: THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!!!
- Kirsten Haugen: At Nature Explore (natureexplore.org), we take joy in working with so many different programs in different settings connecting children (and adults) with nature in their daily lives. We help you create outdoor classrooms and provide professional development.
- Rachel Fort: Thank you!!
- Janelle Cummins: Thank you
- Kathleen Doffermyre: Vision is one thing. Execution is more important!
- Anne Stires: This is so exciting.
- Nicole Corbo: Thank you so much!!
- Kirsten Haugen: Wonderful work!!!

- Deepti Kharod: Great work- thanks for the survey and for sharing these details!
- Angie Rekers: Thank you! great overview!
- Megan Gessler: Thank you!
- Denise Copock: Thank you!!
- Kathleen Doffermyre: Congrats, Natural Start team
- Jenny Carrier: If your nature based preschool program is through school readiness or ecfe does it still need to be licensed?
- Betty Olivolo: To register for the Natural Start Alliance conference, go here: <https://conference.naturalstart.org/>
- Ellen Doris: The Inside-Outside Network has local chapters and online offerings: insideoutside.org
- Deepti Kharod: Hi Betty!
- Aliza Yair: @jenny - licensing requirements differ by state.
- Carol Rasowsky: Fabulous webinar! Thank you all for everything you have done and are continuing to do!
- Gay O'Hanlon: Hi Antioch friends!
- Betty Olivolo: Hi back, Deepti!
- Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: Thanks to all of you for the info in the chat, including resources and links to more info!
- Mike Hill: professional certificate for practitioners, is this progressing?
- Danielle Gorman: What is the average student:teacher ratio?
- Sue Elliott: Great work, thanks!
- Jenny Carrier: @aliza yep that's correct. I was wondering about funding sources.
- Felicia Wilburn: Are there public schools who include nature based programming. Did you track that?
- Kirsten Haugen: Can you share the direct link to the report?
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Survey Website: <https://naturalstart.org/nature-preschools-united-states-2022-survey>
- Betty Olivolo: <https://naturalstart.org/map>
- Christy Merrick: Hi Danielle, Great question on ratios! We didn't ask about that in the survey, but I can say that most nature preschools operate with lower student-teacher ratios than other schools, but it depends on the specific activities, location, and many other factors. There is more detail about the considerations around ratios in the Nature Preschool Professional Practice Guidebook.
- Jaclyn Stallard: The map is amazing! Thank you
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Nature is good for everyone! 💚

- Christa Thomas: Anyone else in the south want to connect? I am in Georgia and have started a tiny grassroots networking group that meets twice a year. Let's connect!
- Elizabeth Boileau: Any plans for another survey in 3 years? Just curious if you see this as an ongoing process!
- Maggie Sandmann: im in NC if you want to connect!
- Melissa Reid: I'm in GA. melissa@elachee.org
- Betty Olivolo: Yes, our goal is to do a survey every 3 years.
- Marilyn Brink: I teach the courses for a Nature- based Early Childhood Education Certificate for the ECE Dept. for Morton College, Cicero, Il. 18 credit certificate that's offered in partnership with the z Morton Arboretum.
- Allison Martin: Christa - yes! Here in NC
- Joe Pounds: I live for tipping points.
- Mina Lombard: Christa I'm back in the US in September, yes would love to! I'm on hello@naureschool.co.za or amina@forestteacher.org
- Nilda Cosco: Many thanks! Great work!
- Anne Stires: THANK YOU EVERYONE!!!! This is fabulous.
- Diane Lill: Thank you!!
- Alice Cohen: Thank you all so much!
- Jaclyn Stallard: Check out the Natural Start/PLT "Early Childhood Education for Earth Day and Beyond" webinar recording and resources for ideas to implement right away! <https://naturalstart.org/bright-ideas/webinar-stepping-out-early-childhood-education-earth-day-and-beyond>
- Mary Traub: Thank you for a very informative webinar
- Vera Feeny: Thank you!
- Maura O'Gara: Awesome!! Thank you so much!!
- Maggie Sandmann: Do more of these webinars! Love it so much!
- Christa Thomas: Super Melissa! I'll reach out!
- Nicole Corbo: So grateful for all you do at NatStart & NAAEE!!
- Christa Thomas: Allison email me hello@unpluggedadv.com
- Jaclyn Stallard: You all are the best! Thanks for all your amazing work
- Bethany Ricks: Thank you! My program serves existing preschools in the Minneapolis Parks with weekly naturalist visits, and I'm excited to imagine how all these resources might impact what we do.
- Emily Van Laan: <https://conference.naturalstart.org/>
- Patti Bonnin: already registered and I am wearing my shirt today! :)
- Jaclyn Stallard: See you at the conference!! I cannot wait

- Allison Martin: Christa - thank you!
- Betty Olivolo: Yay, Patti Born!
- Jeannine Sumner: I teach summer school, can I register and view recordings later?
- Emily Van Laan: Oh yay, Patti! We love that!
- Mirandi Reese Watson: I love my NatStart23 tshirt!
- Emily Van Laan: Yes, Jeannine!
- Christy Merrick: Thank you everyone! So grateful for everyone being so generous with your experience!!!
- Betty Olivolo: Yes, Jeannine
- Jeannine Sumner: Thank you!
- Elizabeth Boileau: Thanks Betty, I saw your response. I am feeling inspired to possibly redo our Canadian survey... :)
- Stacie Pierpoint: Thank you!!
- Emily Van Laan: Thanks to everyone for being here!
- Kirsten Haugen: WONDERFUL!!! The webinar, the survey, all your work!
- Ellen Doris: Thank you!
- Elizabeth Boileau: Thank you!
- Jaclyn Stallard: Mahalo!!
- Julia Billings: Thank you!