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Sun, Sand, & Afternoon Showers: Creating nature-based, outdoor classroom curriculum for a central florida preschool

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SUN, SAND, & AFTERNOON SHOWERS: Creating nature-based, outdoor classroom curriculum for a central florida preschool

By

Ali Burdick

Accepted in Partial Completion
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Education

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SUN, SAND, & AFTERNOON SHOWERS:

**CREATING NATURE-BASED, OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
CURRICULUM FOR A CENTRAL FLORIDA PRESCHOOL**

ABSTRACT

This project was completed as part of Western Washington University's graduate requirements, and has been presented in a website format. The project centered around the creation and revision of a nature-based preschool curriculum. This curriculum is integral to the school programming at St. Luke's Lutheran Preschool in Central Florida, where the project was completed. During this project, I evaluated the curriculum already in place and worked with the school's administration to outline changes that were to be made. These changes mirrored the school's need and desire for a curriculum that reflected our ever-changing cultural and natural world. Lessons that may have once been included in the curriculum, such as an activity that positively framed fish farming practices, were reconsidered and revised. Other lessons, such as those on recycling, were critically revised to reflect how these processes, while still important, have changed drastically over the course of the last 7 years. These changes to the curriculum were made in order to uphold the school's vision of nature-based, environmentally focused curriculum, while also reflecting some of the shifts and changes within the environmental field since the curriculum's initial creation. This project, while "finished" in the boundaries of this academic program, is ongoing work and will be revisited by St. Luke's Lutheran Preschool when necessary.

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