

# Friday, May 3 PM Breakout Session Descriptions

## Friday Breakout Session 2: 2:30-3:45

### Doing the deep work: Exploring Another Layer of Inside, Outside, & Beyond

**Rachel Larimore**, Samara Early Learning

In nature-based pedagogy we typically think of the Inside, Outside, and Beyond as physical locations for learning. This session, however, will explore the Inside, Outside, and Beyond as a metaphor for relationships with ourselves, others, and the natural world. This session will explore how we can do the inner work ourselves, as well as support our teams, to show up more fully as educators and teammates.

### Creating Art with Beautiful Sustainable Materials

**Lisa Daly**, Transforming Early Learning

Learn how children may express their artistic creativity with beautiful, sustainable materials without tape, paint, glue, paper, or tools. Transient art is a wonderful way to reuse existing materials, reduce waste, and lower the amount spent on consumable goods while fostering children's creativity. Additionally, we'll explore how children may create two- and three-dimensional art outdoors with found natural items such as bark, rocks, sticks, flowers, leaves, and seed pods.

### "We see the trees but we don't really know them": Embodied place-based inquiry rooted in play

**Christie Angelton & Zhao Xiaoying**, Illinois State University

What does it mean to know something, rather than to merely see it? Join us for an interactive, embodied exploration of place-based inquiry rooted in play and literal trees. Note: This session may extend past the session ending time into the reflective activity.

### Earthly Wonders

**Alex Pafilis-Silverstein & Jola Dohrmann**, Chicago Children's Museum

The session aims to empower educators to foster a rich learning environment by crafting a nature-oriented classroom despite constraints like limited natural light, outdoor areas, and a modest budget. (Also offered in the Saturday PM session.)

### It's OK to be Nervous When Integrating Nature Experiences in Early Childhood for the First Time

**Jenn Thrasher**, Wild Tykes

Trying something new can be nerve-racking, especially when you are responsible for the lives of young children. This presentation will empower you to continuously integrate nature into your curriculum.

### Build & Facilitate Experiences with Goals, Purpose and Meaning: On the Trail, at the Heart of Experience

**Stephen Gariepy**, SIU STEM Education Research Center

Join the presenter for an immersive educational experience on the Rocky Ledges Educational Trail considering techniques for and challenges of outdoor experiential education. Note: This session may extend past the session ending time into the reflective activity.

### Nature and the Power of Observation

**Nancy Gulley**, Southern Illinois University, Southern Region Early Childhood Programs

Explore all the wonders that nature has to offer! Learn how nature offers the opportunity for exploration and wonder to preschool children as they learn how to focus and observe details in nature. Participants will examine the power of observation through observation of nature materials and learn how careful observation and journaling can lead to wonder and excitement of learning across multiple learning domains.