







Our planet is facing profound environmental challenges and our best hope to address these challenges are our young people. We need this generation to be aware, educated, engaged and inspired. But to do this, young people need experiences that connect them to the natural world, helping them to understand the underpinnings of the processes and cycles that sustain life, including our own.

At Living Classroom, we work to build environmental literacy over the early educational years of our students by creating an awareness and knowledge which manifests in a real connection and concern for the planet and the challenges we face. This connection, combined with problem solving and critical thinking skills leads to concerned citizens willing to take positive actions to promote the sustainability of our planet.

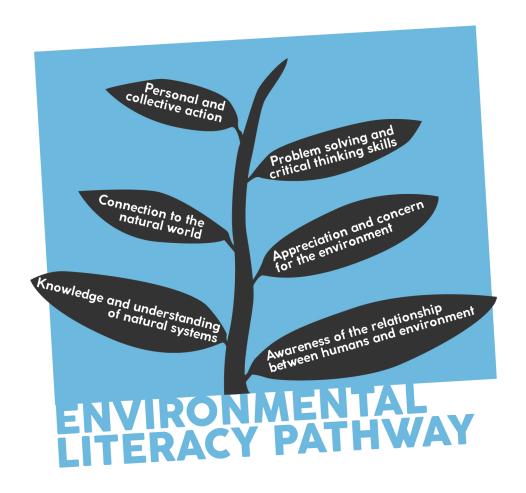
An Essential Element of a Twenty-First Century Education

Environmental literacy is an essential element of a twenty-first century education. We watch these connections and ideas blossom in our students as they participate in a variety of handson lessons in the gardens we create. A sense of wonder awakens as he/she finds life teeming in a handful of soil or nurtures a seed into a healthy plant to be harvested and enjoyed in a delicious snack with classmates. Students are empowered when they take action to restore the habitat of a threatened species, grasping the idea that they *can* make a tangible difference in the world.

Green Schoolyards and Environmental Literacy

The design of outdoor learning environments is crucial to fostering a stewardship ethic in our young people. Green schoolyards include native habitat gardens that attract wildlife and ecological landscaping that includes observational elements such as outdoor seating and work areas. These environments are a central element of a wider vision to restore our relationship with the natural world. Green schoolyards have the power to bring nature to every child, every day, while improving our local ecosystems, learning environments, and health.

At Living Classroom, we provide a set of highly relevant experiences and natural environments so that this young generation will grow up informed by an ecological understanding and conscience, equipped and inspired to take on the environmental challenges to come.



Environmental literacy is at the heart of what we do.



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