

# Play Explore Create with Nature

Marghanita Hughes



NATURE INVITES OUR IMAGINATIONS TO PLAY

# Play Explore Create

Nature Connected Children Need Nature Connected Parents and Teachers



# Sharing our Nature Art gifts Joy - Heart to Heart Soul to Soul from a distance...

Please note the following pages of this PDF were created back in January before the Pandemic so when going outdoors please practice social distancing. If you are in lockdown and unable to get outdoors - **let us play, explore create indoors.** For those of you who can get outdoors - please be mindful and follow the correct protocol where you live - stay away from crowds and keep your social distancing.



As Children's Freedom has declined  
so too has their Creativity

A beautiful and *playful* way of engaging children  
with the natural world is through  
Storytelling with Nature

Our Play, Explore, Create Outdoors Project is all about providing  
opportunities for children to **explore their creativity through nature play** -  
in this project we wish to highlight the Importance of Storytelling

**Playing in nature with nature is a joy-filled adventure that anyone can do, at any age**

# Health and Happiness

Nature is the place to heal. Time in Nature- Boosts our Immune System and reduces Stress  
Walking in nature, we slow down, we begin to relax and our stress is reduced. Our brains work differently in nature, many plants produce substances called phytoncides that are released into the air that help boost our immune function. And the sunlight helps energise special cells in our immune system called T cells that help fight infection. Sunlight increase our happiness, lifts our spirits.



# Storytelling with Nature



Fantasy play is enchanting and natural and good for the child's developing brain - it's also oodles of fun at any age!

### KEEPING THE ENCHANTMENT OF CHILDHOOD ALIVE - THE MAGIC OF NATURE PLAY

The outdoors invites us to *play, explore and create* - a stick can morph into a wizard's wand, an oak leaf - a bedding cover for a fairy, an acorn cap - a hat for a little being.

When children and nature mix, something magical happens. Sadly today many children have very little time to play in nature to experience that magic. As schooling becomes more rigid and consumes more of childhood, it is causing increasing harm to our children. The average seven year old spends as much as 7 hours in front of digital screens throughout their day. The lack of nature play is not only impacting on the children's health and wellbeing, imagination and creativity is being lost. Their absence from the natural world is also having an impact on our little planet earth. We are seeing words like "dandelion" and "acorn" being removed from children's dictionaries.

Its time to GET BACK TO NATURE! Not tomorrow, not next week, TODAY - NOW! And I need your help!

This challenge is all about taking the children outdoors and putting their imaginations to work.



Take the  
children  
outdoors

## Nurturing the Whole Child - Body, Mind, Heart and Spirit

For me it goes back to my early childhood education .I had the freedom to roam wild in nature...playing, exploring, creating. That's where I developed my wild imagination which has stayed with me into adulthood. That freedom to be who I needed to be doesn't exist for many of today's children, who are rushed from one activity to the next, and often made to sit down, and regurgitate words and numbers as if they were a robots.

## Let the children be children

And what about the child's spirit?

The spirit after all is the child's unique characteristics. The spirit needs to be nurtured too - the "spirit" is, a child's innermost being."

We need to allow the children in our lives to be who they are and embrace their unique approach to the world

There are few more important gifts that we can pass on to our children than the acceptance of who they truly are.

PeaceJoy

## Nature play nurtures the Spirit



Less Tech - More Nature



A photograph of two children in a forest. In the foreground, a child with long blonde hair, wearing a light blue t-shirt, holds a large green stalk. In the background, another child in a blue shirt holds a black telescope-like object. The scene is filled with green foliage and trees.

# Nature Nurtures Creativity

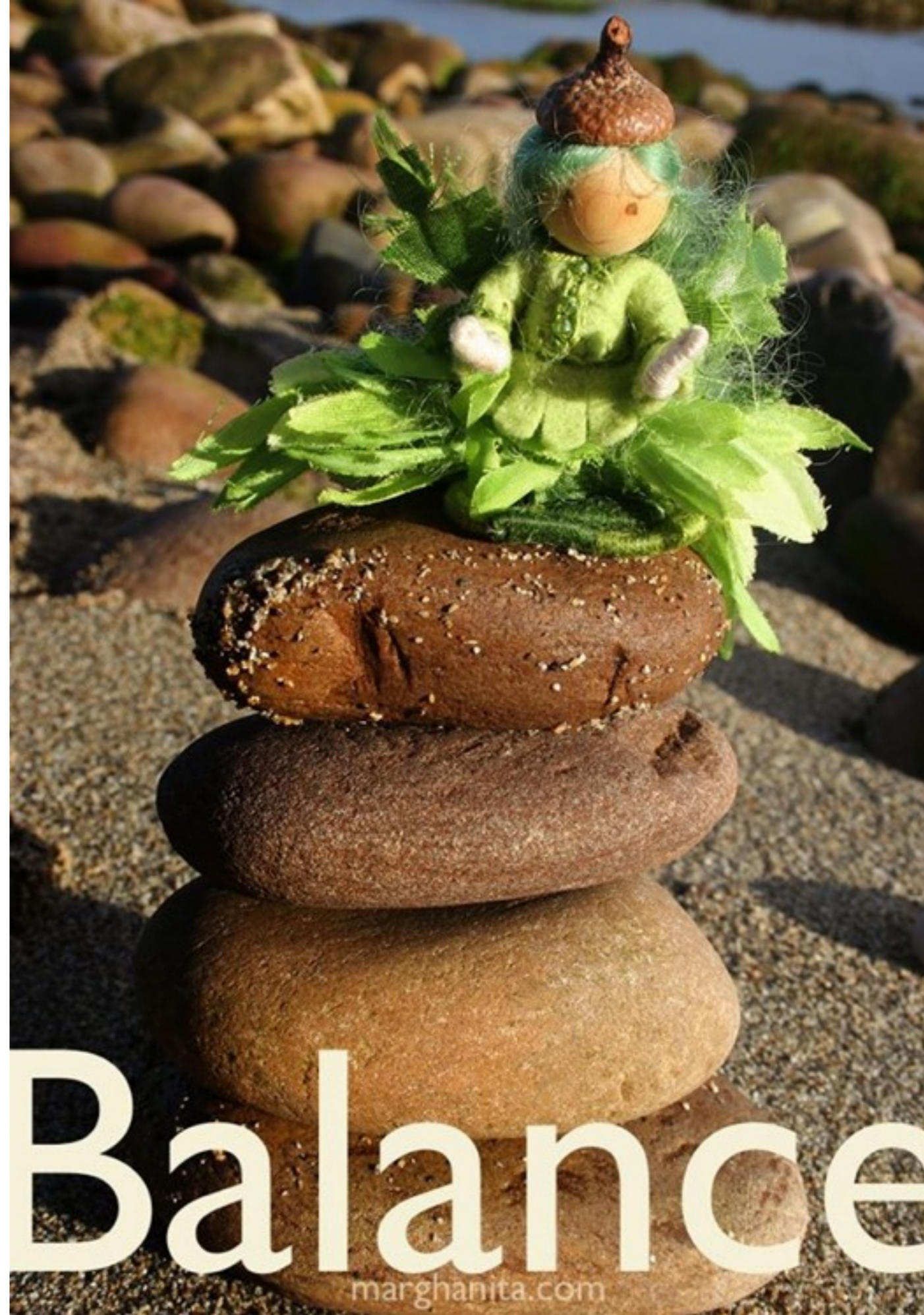
In Nature Play all the senses are being used

## WE HAVE TO FIND A BALANCE!

This is my small contribution to trying to find a balance, at least giving children a little time to be playful and creative in nature, with nature. The benefits are huge for all ages - including the teachers and parents.

### Objectives for Go Play, Explore, Create Challenge

- to allow children to experience the joy of having the freedom to play outdoors
- to experience the freedom to explore in nature, to get up close to nature, to hunt and gather whatever they are attracted to
- to be given the opportunity to create something unique from natural materials found in nature
- freedom to express their individuality through their unique creation
- to share stories featuring their creations
- to keep alive our culture, heritage and words, and stories that matter
- to provide on going opportunities to explore in nature to help form a loving relationship with their local natural environment and all life
- to have their creations displayed in school, local libraries, art galleries, to help inspire others to go play, explore, create outdoors



Why I chose Daisy to feature in our Play, Explore, Create Challenge

## Elise and her story

### Meet Elise

Meet Elise, Elise has a rare brain disorder and suffers from epilepsy. She has been coming for one to one nature art therapy sessions for over 2 years now. We are great friends. Last year Elise had to have an operation. I visited her at her home a few days prior to her operation. She wanted to show me her garden and as we explored she noticed a daisy in the lawn - "isn't it pretty Marghanita". Indeed it was; daisies have a special place in my heart - I love daisies. They are such happy looking flowers, pure, simple yet such intricate detail...innocent and beautiful - a perfect gift of joy, just like little Elise.

There were only a few daisies not enough to make a daisy necklace so I asked if she would like to make a Daisy Being, something she could treasure forever. (A lot of our nature art is ephemeral, which we leave in the forest, this offered more permanence).

*"The arts enable us to have experience we can have from no other source and through such experience to discover the range and variety of what we are capable of feeling."* - Elliot Eisner

# Love



Just like me, Elise loves making little characters from natural materials she finds in nature during our nature walks in the forest and down at the lakeshore. She went in search of a "Y"stick and another smaller branch that would later morph into arms. In my basket I had all sorts of natural materials for Elise to investigate. She chose clay for the head, felt for the petals (the felt is made from recycled plastic bottles) and some wool/yarn for her daisy stick person dress. While she was rummaging through my basket she asked if I wanted to make one too - so I did, sharing stories as we created our daisy beings.

Ofcourse you can choose ANYTHING that is natural.  
Please do not use plastic, paper or google eyes (one of my pet hates!)

As soon as Elise had made her daisy, she wanted to play. Elsie always names her creations, even a single leaf will receive a name. To my surprise she wanted to name her daisy being Marghanita - I was deeply moved by this and smiled back at her - "I think my daisy should be called - Elise". and she giggled, we both giggled. And so it was we each had a little being of each other.

Elise and her Daisy Being she  
named Marghanita





“That is beautiful  
which is  
produced by the  
inner need,  
which springs  
from the soul”

Kandinsky



Spirit

We played outdoors with our daisy beings, and Elise drew a picture of us together...Marghanita and Elise...which she gifted me on my departure. We agreed we would take care of our daisy beings and reunite them when she had recovered after her operation. Weeks later Elise returned to our sessions holding her little Marghanita Daisy - I cannot express the joy seeing her so playful, so alive, remembering our day making Daisy...this will forever remain in my heart. Daisy Elise is still on my desk - a constant reminder of love, friendship faith, prayers and the joy of playing outdoors



Daisy mark 2 was created to take to *“Play Iceland”* as my prop for my presentation on the importance of play and the freedom of self expression...**Tom Shea** became the keeper of this Daisy, for he had just been blessed with the gift of a grandchild named Daisy..

So much love and beauty embodied in the Daisy flower.

Spirit

*“The spirit, like the body, can be strengthened and developed by frequent exercise. Just as the body, if neglected, grows weaker and finally impotent, so the spirit perishes if untended.”* - Kandinsky



Lets go Play, Explore, Create Challenge 2020



So here I am sharing this story and wishing that all children around the world get to play outdoors and have the freedom to explore its beauty, wonder and awe; to play among the trees, the daisies, the dandelions and the bluebells. To climb the oaks and make friends with the creatures and birds that visit these magnificent gentle giants...to form loving relationships with mother nature and all her beautiful friends.

I believe all children should experience the wonders of the natural world and have ample opportunities to express themselves creatively throughout their (pre)school days. If we cannot take the children to the forest, or woods, then we must bring the forest to the classroom.



# Aiko - Beloved Child

As I work on the PDF on the computer my head is filled with beautiful daisies, however my eyes are sore and need a rest from the computer. I head out into the forest and play under a Ponderosa Pine. I use clay and wool and some pine cones and create Aiko.

The Japanese meaning of **Aiko** is *beloved child* - I felt this was the perfect name for this beautiful soul. I wanted to capture the innocence of a child, the purity, the love, the joy. What a joy it was to create Aiko and photograph her playing with Daisy



Nature Art becomes an extension  
of our language





“Only through freedom and environmental experience is it practically possible for human development to occur.”

Montessori

# A call to Action

We invite educators and parents to help raise awareness of the importance of the relationship between nature experience and healthy child development. This project not only helps promote a healthier lifestyle for children but for parents and teachers too. We can all benefit from playing outdoors in nature. It makes us happier, healthier and *more creative*.

*"Technology now dominates almost every aspect of our lives. In and of itself, technology is not the enemy, but the lack of balance in our schools and lives, I believe, can be lethal. In addition, much of society (including too many members of the education establishment) no longer sees independent, imaginary play in natural settings as "enrichment." - Richard Louv*

In September 2012, the World Congress of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) passed a resolution titled "The Child's Right to Connect with Nature and to a Healthy Environment." This connection is, indeed, a human right, and the acknowledgement of that is progress. We now need to move more quickly into a mode of greater action, which goes beyond awareness, both at the family and the community level. - Richard Louv



# Action

Let's go Play Outside!





**Art is a language and form of communication that humans have used throughout history**  
Through the Arts I learned that - I am my style - I am an individual - I am unique and so too was my art. Every child is an artist and their art is truly unique.

# Let the Children Play Outdoors



**Children learn through play.** This nature based art activity challenge is centered around play. A *playful journey* of exploration, discovery, and creative expression. Here are 8 steps to guide you through the Play, Explore, Create Challenge

1. Take your students outdoors and let them play in nature
2. Let them explore, hunt and gather natural items from nature such as sticks, leaves feathers etc (always give thanks for what you collect and only take what you need)
3. Provide students with natural materials such as wool(yarn) twine, clay etc to play, explore and create with along side their natural items they found in nature
4. Invite the students to make a stick being or creature (of course they are free to choose something completely different if they so wish)
5. After they have created their stick beings, allow for more play - this is all about allowing for free flowing explorations and creative outdoor adventures with their creations.
6. Invite the students to share stories both orally and visually through drawings, about their outdoor adventures.
7. Post photographs of their creations/stories on our Facebook page:
8. Display the students nature art and their stories in school, local libraries to help raise awareness.

If you have any questions you can email me - [info@marghanita.com](mailto:info@marghanita.com)

## No Rules No Judgement

Make sure there is lots of time for **Play**. The child must be given time to savor the new experiences as they unfold.

Every child works at their own pace, allow for plenty of time to create - art must never be rushed.

The beauty of creating is having the freedom of expression .The child is free to choose whatever natural items and materials they wish to create with. Their creation is their unique expression of what they imagined. - No Judgement

Play Explore Create



# The Joy of Being Human

"For the child, it is not half so important to know as to feel. If facts are the seeds that later produce knowledge and wisdom, then the emotions and the impressions of the senses are the fertile soil in which the seeds must grow." - Rachel Carson

Body Mind Heart Spirit



The Joy of **Playing Exploring Creating**  
The Joy of **Sharing Storytelling Learning Growing**  
The Joy of **Childhood**

# The Awe and Wonder of the Natural World

This is something you can't experience in an indoor classroom - part of being human is to be in touch, up close and intimate with the natural world. We cannot understand or appreciate that we are part of nature if we have no relationship with nature. Like any relationship, it requires time and commitment.



Touch Taste Smell Listen Look



## Relationship

Love and respect for the natural world can only happen when we make time to nurture our relationship with nature.

As adults, we have a responsibility to help nurture the sacred relationship between the child and Mother Earth.





**Finding inspiration in nature** From rediscovery to letting go, through exploring the senses and connecting to nature, all exercises lead to being inspired by nature, of finding peace in nature, of finding wonder, beauty and joy in our surroundings, and from this point we explore the creativity that lies within.

# Inspiration



Creativity is at the core of being Human.

Richard Wagamese





# Global Love

What I love about this collective sharing of stories from around the world is the diversity of natural materials and how they are brought back to life once more through imagination

This illustration was inspired by the fascinating volcanic rock formations I got to explore during our Play Iceland trip.

Every country is different, every landscape unique and offering treasure of all sorts to play with, explore and create

Iceland

## What, Why and How

**What:** Let's Play and Create Outdoors Project is an invitation to school aged children (and younger children) and youth from around the world to create the largest ever online storybook illustrated by children. The project involves educators and parents taking their children outdoors and allowing them to hunt and gather natural items to create a stick being or creature that they can go on adventures with and later, draw their outdoor experiences featuring their hand-crafted little stick being or creature.

**Why:** To help raise awareness of the *importance of outdoor play*. In our technological driven world, children spend less time outdoors immersed in nature. We are losing our connection with the natural world.

As humans, we have an innate need to be creative. Each child is born an artist. This project is an invitation for children (and adults) to share their playful nature adventures with Daisy and her stick friends. *Sharing stories enriches brains and nurtures hearts!*



Meet  
Daisy

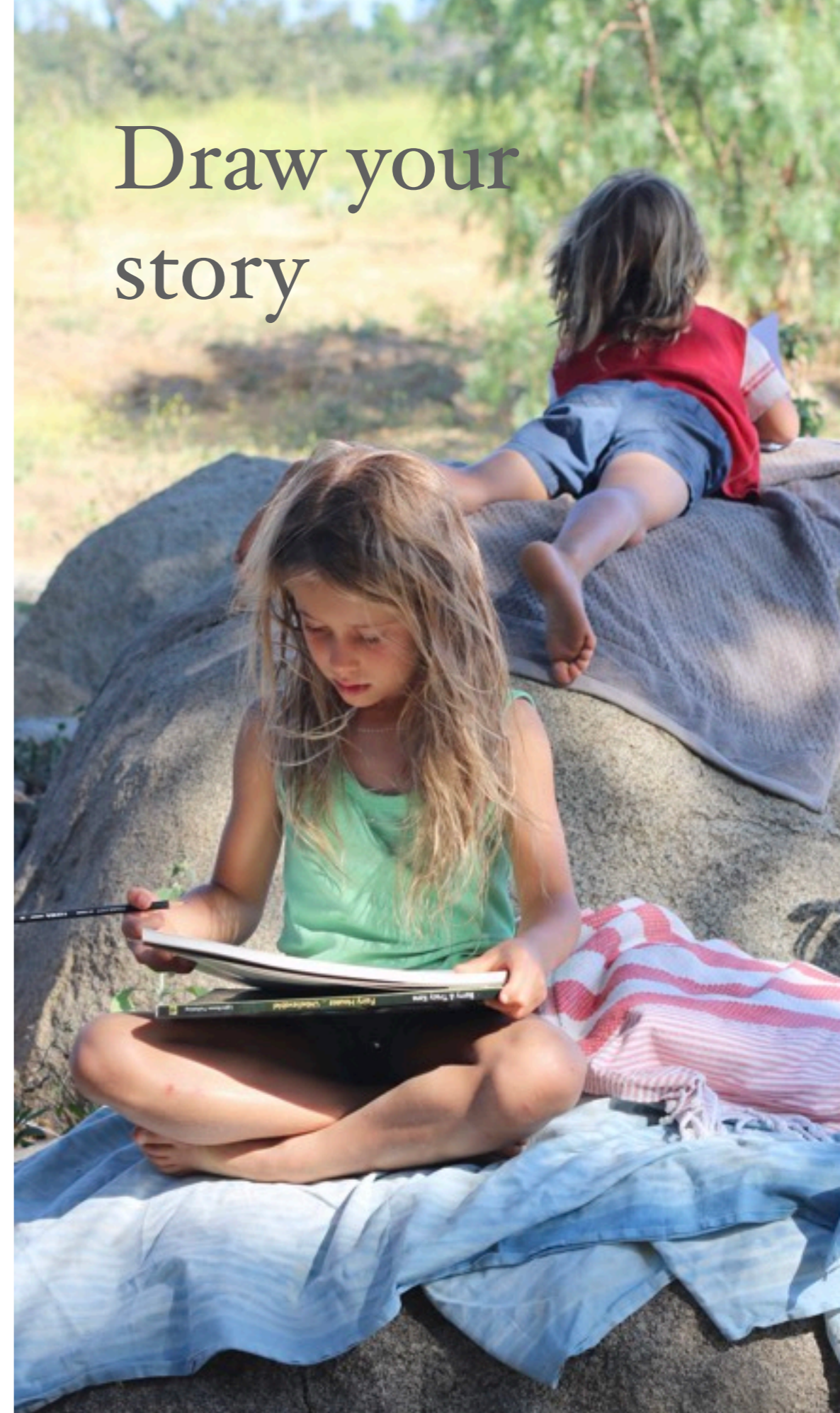
**How:** I wish to invite you and *your older students* to help create the largest picture book in the entire world. An Invitation to *older students* (5 years plus) to share their playful outdoor activities through illustrative storytelling.

Each child creates their very own Stick Being, Creature, Alien - whatever that is created in the artists (children) *own style*, using treasure (natural items) they find in and around their local environment, such as fallen twigs, branches, foliage, seeds and other materials such as clay, twine or wool/yarn etc will. There are no rules - it is all about the *freedom of expression*. The child is invited to create whatever his/her imagination desires. The child is then invited to draw a scene from their playful adventures outdoors with their little stick character.

The teacher/parent is then invited to post their drawings on the Projects FB Page to help build a beautiful tapestry of artwork created by children from all around the world. **Realising that their individual creation, when it is shared with other people, it is helping to build - "create the largest picture book in the entire world".**

They are also encouraged to display their artwork and stick beings in their school, local libraries and art galleries to help raise awareness of the sacredness of playing outdoors, being creative, storytelling orally and through drawings which are sadly being replaced by playtime indoors on electronic devices.

# Draw your story



## The Importance of Communication in a Digital World

An invitation from **Daisy**, our little stick being from Canada made by Elise (one of my special needs students) to children around the world to create their very own little stick being made from natural materials found in nature in their local environment. I have been fortunate enough to visit schools for over 15 years where we invite children to create their very own stick being from a fallen branch and instantly once the little character has been created the children want to **go play**.

After their outdoor adventures with their stick being, we invite the students to share their stories both orally and through drawings. This is a beautiful way for children to express themselves creatively and be part of a movement towards a better future for all beings and our precious planet Mother Earth.

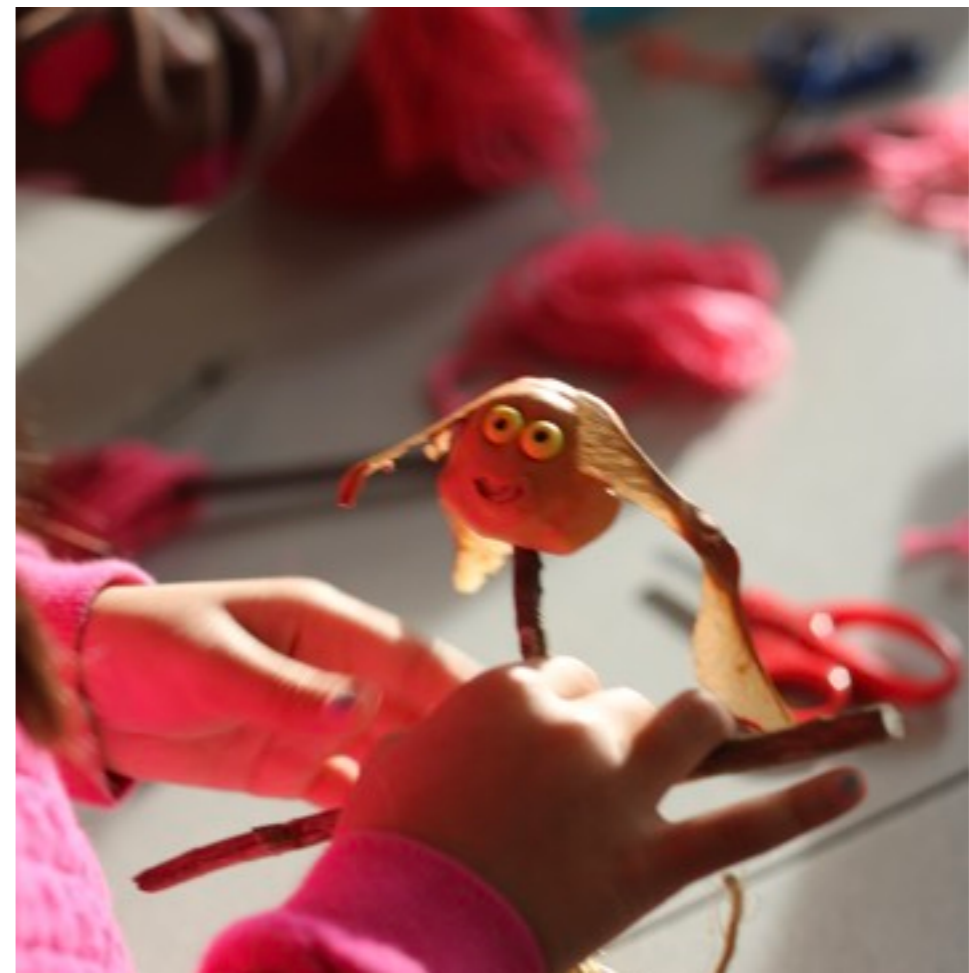
I felt drawing their story was the most powerful way to allow the story to be interpreted by the readers/viewers. Their illustrations provide an open story with no language barrier...

We hope this project will bring children of all ages together to play outdoors and let their imaginations run wild. Sharing our stories through creative expression is part of what makes us human. Technology has been replacing so much of our outdoor creative play.

***let's make 2020 the year we claim back our Humanness.***



*“Storytelling is a fundamental form of human communication. We create stories out of life experiences as a way of making sense of what has happened to us.” – Robert Atkinson*



**Remembering who and what we are through storytelling in nature, with nature.**

The fallen branch was once part of the living tree – a story in itself. Now you are giving new life to the fallen branch with the help of a child’s imagination. The child creates their very own stick person (people) and creates a story around their character(s).

A tree represents the shared roots and branches of every culture and faith. By creating our little stick people we encourage students, educators and families of all backgrounds to unite and interact as they explore our deep-rooted connection with nature through storytelling, and celebrate our different traditions, cultures and faiths.

This helps create a greater understanding and respect among all people and nurtures a deep love for the natural world along our united journey. Reawakening to the rhythmic secrets of the natural world helps rekindle our creativity.

Making stick people and creating stories with our creations helps renew our inner spirit and awaken our sense of wonder – rekindling our love affair with the natural world.



Storytelling helps us get back in touch with ourselves, the land, and our cultural roots.



Make nature play a part of your day - every day!



Creativity is as important as literacy -

Sir Ken Robinson



# Lost Words

A is for Acorn



## Lost Words and Lost Imaginations

It really saddened me to read about the word "Acorn" being removed from one of the children's dictionaries - how incredibly sad to think many children nowadays don't get opportunities to get to know the mighty oak and all its treasure. Childhood and all it's magic is precious and sacred, *so too is our language; our heritage and our trees*. What could be more sacred than the life that gifts us the fresh air we need to survive and home to so many of our little nature friends. The acorn is food for so many birds and creatures.



And the little caps - well as you can see make the most adorable hats for little land beings and such like!

**"Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere"**



Piero  
marghanita.com

When I was young we had a magic carpet that transported us to far off lands, today my little "being of the land" - Piero (above) has discovered a magic Oak Leaf that allows him to fly across the ocean and as far away as the moon and back

## We Protect What We Love

Children need time to play in nature, to imagine and create and go on magical adventures. Through this creative nature play they discover more about themselves and their environment and over time - a beautiful, loving relationship is formed between the child and Mother Earth.



# Falling in love with Nature



I believe in providing art activities that will help children bond with the natural world and build *personal relationships with nature*. These simple, beautiful activities such as Storytelling with Stick People, provide ways to express their creativity, curiosity and wonder. When I was a child, my favourite place to hang out was high up in the branches of the silver birch tree in the back garden. Alone with my thoughts and dreams, my imagination soared. It was those magical experiences in nature that helped shape my life. I still do all of these nature activities today, which I believe keep me happy and healthy and creatively inspired.

## Love and respect

We collect by hand the magical treasure locally. Our respect for the treasure gifted by Mother Earth is shown through our protocols of always asking permission first and giving thanks for what is given. We only take what is needed. When out gathering, discuss poisonous plants and watch out for stinging nettles and bugs that may bite.





Imagination

Every flower is a soul blossoming in nature

Gerard De Nerval



[educationheartnatureart.com](http://educationheartnatureart.com)

“If we are to create peace in our world, we must begin with our children”

Mahatma Gandhi

We Are One Big Family

“Let us embrace the beauty of every culture and faith to create peace and hope on earth.”

Mitra Sen



Art can play a leading role in guiding our society towards a regenerative intuitive vision of the life process. Our connectedness to nature is part of a holistic way of life. Grande, 1983,



## We are all unique

Just like each individual branch from each individual tree, each child is unique. The branches come in all shapes, and sizes, and different colours. Making a stick person provides an opportunity to celebrate our uniqueness and our connectedness through creative expression. The value storytelling holds as a source of inspiration and as a teaching tool makes it one of the most important tradition mankind possesses.

Childhood is precious and sacred, and I thank each and everyone of you for keeping the enchantment of childhood alive.



*"The heart is the home to our soul, sometimes referred to as the seat of the soul. An aspect of us which is often overlooked, yet is essential for us to be human and whole. To grow and evolve, a child's soul needs to be in right relationship with all of life. Through experiencing beauty in life, the child then can see the beauty in all of life and ultimately walk in beauty throughout life. The soul is nonphysical in nature; therefore it has few physical needs. What feeds the soul is a healthy relationship with the natural world, this is what nature's plan intended." - Thomas Berry*

## An Engaged Imagination

An engaged imagination - the children share stories both orally and through simple drawings with their stick person. The children draw on the power of their amazing imagination. It is important that children have the independence and control in the creative process. Children will learn and grow through their creative journey, learning more about themselves our differences and the beautiful natural world we share. Through their creative explorations they discover their ***own art style***, how unique they are, and how ***unique their art is***.

This simple challenge involves putting **OUR** imaginations to work! Everyone around the world can participate in this activity, creating positive change in their neck of the woods....it doesn't cost anything other than your time and commitment to taking the children outdoors to play, explore and create.





# 2020

This is the year we get our children **back into nature**. Encouraging children to explore and celebrate their unique sense of creativity.



Children are sensorial explorers. Hunting for fallen branches and creating little stick people captivates the *child's imagination*, activates the senses, and gives them a sense of *belonging in nature*; and they develop the ability to express their experiences



# Let the children play!

*“This is a brilliant start - 2020 - the year we went back outside - to discover both **nature** and our legs and arms and eyes and ears and **imagination and friendship**.*

*And all we have to do.... is let the children outside and play. It doesn't matter if you are in a woodland, a fieldland, a sealand,, a villageland, a townland or a cityland - inside can be good - BUT OUTSIDE IS better - let the children choose and follow their aspirations.” - Tom Shea*



Nature play invites us to create

## No Rules No Judgement

Please make sure the children use only natural materials found in nature. If you do choose to supply beads, please use wooden or glass beads.

Watch the video: Kindergarten students make their stick people using yarn, glass and wooden beads. They are super excited about sharing their stories about their little stick being orally and through drawing.



## Collaboration

Look how happy these grade 4 and 5 students are with their large stick beings! They all agreed the best part was working together as a team on their stick beings



## Your Story is Our Story

I am hopeful, because I know you, and others like you, care too, and will take action - we need action.  
Truly grateful for your love and support and for taking the time to help our children form loving,  
lasting relationships with nature.



“After nourishment, shelter and companionship, stories are the thing we need most in the world.”  
— Philip Pullman

# What is your story?



“Storytelling is about interacting with another human being and using one's imagination to visualize.”

Share your students stories here on our Facebook page: **FACEBOOK**

You can either photograph their stick people and create a story with their stick characters or they can choose to draw a story about their adventures outdoors with their stick being/creature/creation.

Art teaches us how to live

Making Friends Around the World



A day in the  
life of the  
Forest singer

By Olivia

## The Forest Singer



This is Stella, she loves and protects the chocolate trees by singing beautiful songs.

# Nature Play

Nature Invites Us to Play, to Explore, to Create



"The way we see the world,  
shapes the way we treat it."  
- David Suzuki

All children need to see and experience trees to understand the positive impact they have on our well-being.

*"Recent studies on children's relationships with nature suggest interactions with trees can help shape concepts of self. Trees are the crucial places where children can explore, develop physical skills, hide out, learn about seasonal changes, and make private spaces just to be."*

Anderson, Katharine, "Nature, Culture and Big Old Trees" - University of Texas Press 2003

## Urban Nature Play

Nature is all around us - as close as opening our front door. The elements will greet us as we step outside. The wind, the rain, the sunshine, the sky above awaken our senses.



Even in the city - we can find green spaces to play, explore and create.

One school visit in Surrey, BC - we had to take the children over two busy roads and then along an old rail way to experience a green space with trees. The children loved the adventure and when we finally found some trees, the children were able to observe, touch and smell the trees. Listen to the sounds of nature and draw how they felt about the nature around them. If you want your children to experience nature you will seek it out.

We must work with what we have utilize local parks, gardens and woodland areas near you.

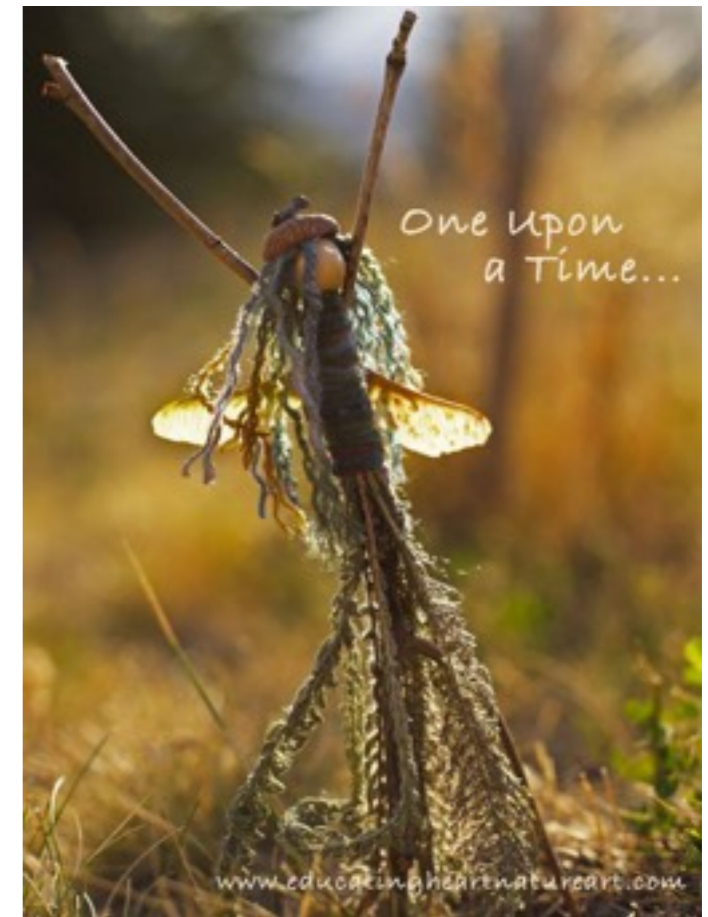




Play shouldn't stop when a child reaches school age. I believe play is important for our mental health and well-being not just in childhood but right through adulthood. Playing outdoors in nature helps nurture the "whole being" - body, mind, heart and spirit.

“We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing.”

-George Bernard Shaw





# The poetry of the land speaks to my soul

Nature Play nourishes my soul

Nature is constantly communicating with us, yet so many people have no awareness that this communication exists. I believe that each one of us must walk our own path. In order for our world to be at peace and in harmony, we need to rediscover how to listen to nature, and to rekindle our love affair with the natural world. This is my reason for creating this booklet - to offer simple, soulful, creative ways to reestablish our relationship with nature, with each other, and to strengthen our kinship with all life. Making stick people and creating stories helps to link us with the environment in which we live; the stories reveal to us what we have forgotten in our busy urban lives, they remind us to bring peace and harmony into our lives, and bring to the forefront of our consciousness the importance of time spent reconnecting with nature. I am compelled to help rekindle and celebrate our “HUMAN” communication.

*“In our technological world we are seeing our communication lessen in the real world. More people feel lonely yet we have more ways of communicating than ever before. The digital world damages human interaction.”* - Sherry Turkle, MIT social scientist and author of the best-seller *Alone Together*



# Adults love Storytelling with Nature Too

Nature connected children need nature connected parents and educators

Storytelling with Nature at any Age  
Educators and parents love this nature based art activity too. Here are a group of educators and organization leaders attending my Storytelling with Nature Workshop at the Children and Nature Network Conference 2018 held in Vancouver.

The adults were invited to hunt and gather natural materials then create their very own stick being. They were then put into groups to make up and act out a story involving their stick characters and one of the elements of their choice (earth, fire, air, water).



On the following pages you will see examples of the amazing imaginations children have - here are just a few of the stick beings students have created -



You can help create the largest storybook in the whole wide world

# Nature Play Inspires Creativity





Grade 1



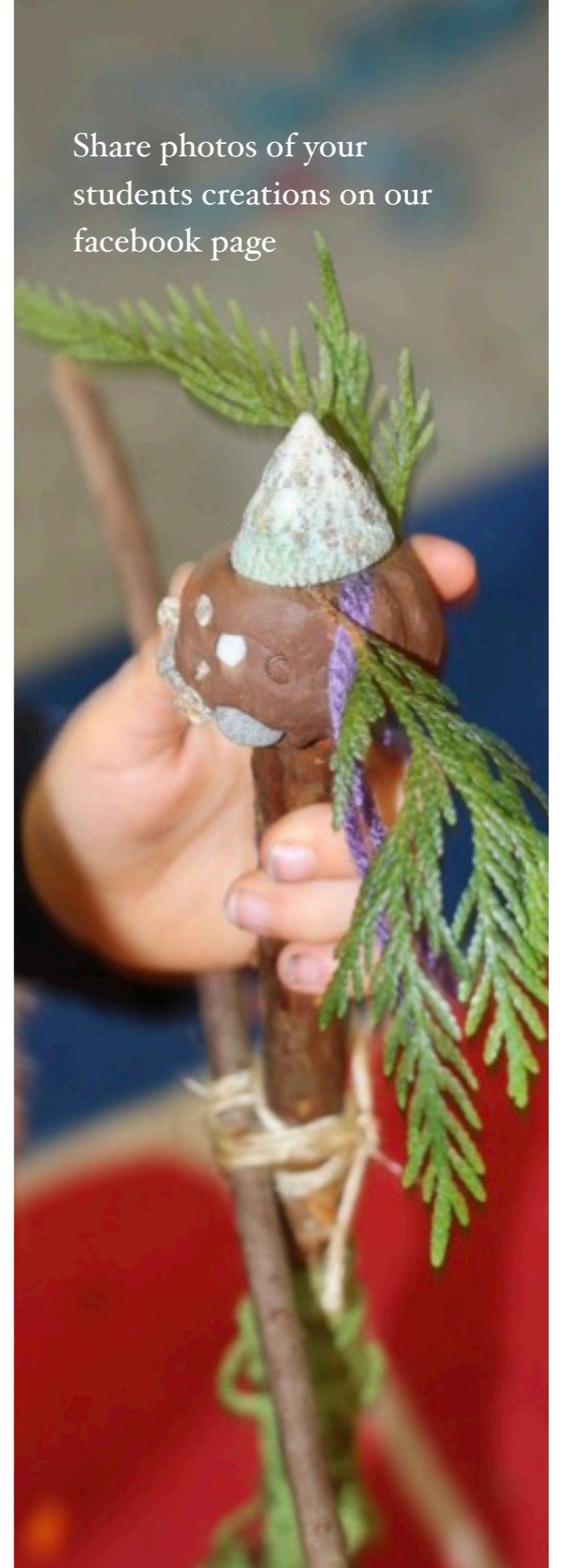
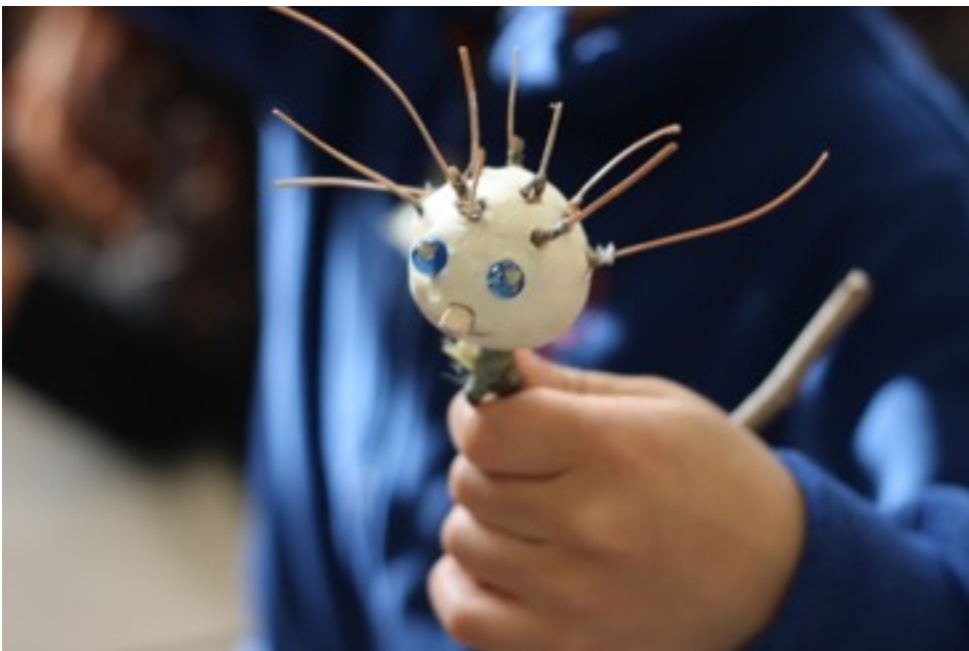
All ages can take part in this challenge



Grade 2



Preschool



Share photos of your students creations on our facebook page

Share your children's illustrated stories on our Facebook page so we can create the largest storybook in the world.

Please do not post any pictures with the children's faces - thank you.

Grade 3

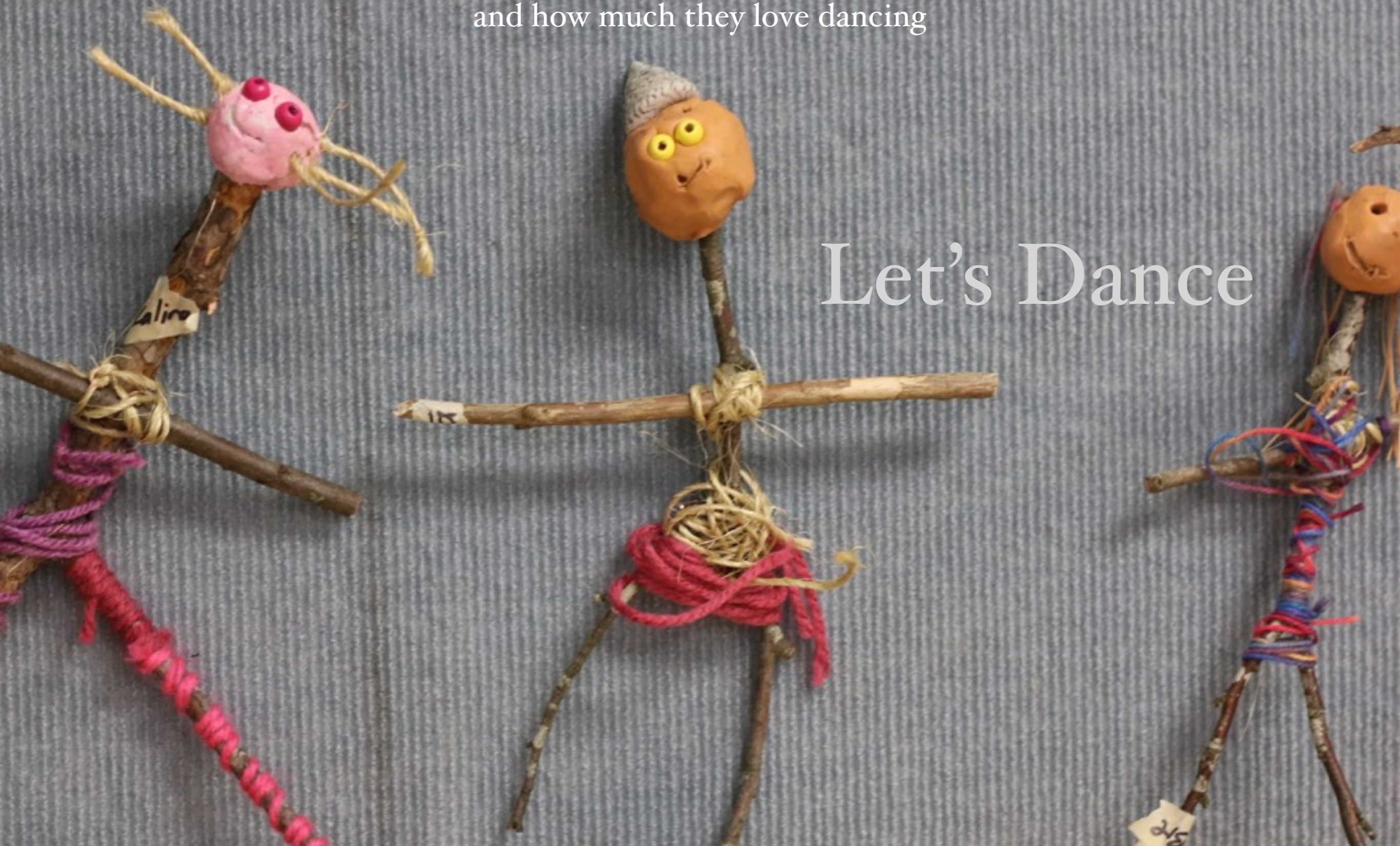






These three students decided to make their story all about their friendship  
and how much they love dancing

# Let's Dance



I cannot finish without sharing one of my favourite quotes by the beautiful artist Paul Klee. He found nature a constant source of inspiration for his art. As a child he would spend hours in the garden drawing.

*“Lead you students towards nature, into nature; let them learn by experience how a bud is formed; how a tree grows; how a butterfly opens its wings, so that they will become as rich as variable; as capricious as nature herself.”*



## We Can Do This

Thank you for helping to create positive change and improve the health and wellbeing of our children.

**Let's go play!**

With love and gratitude Marghanita

[www.marghanita.com](http://www.marghanita.com)

[www.educatingheartnatureart.com](http://www.educatingheartnatureart.com)

Facebook Page PLAY EXPLORE CREATE

[www.internationalplayiceland.com](http://www.internationalplayiceland.com)

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My love for our children and the natural world will forever - keep me creating and sharing. The child's relationship with Mother Earth is vital for their health and wellbeing, for their happiness, and for our Mother Earth's happiness too.  
Connecting the Child's Heart to Mother Earth's Heart

Videos and further reading:

[Take a Walk in Nature](#)

[Storytelling with Nature - Stick People](#)

[Why Nature and Art](#)

And a beautiful short film about  
the importance of play:

[PLAYED](#)

[The Power of Storytelling](#)

Please take a moment to read this article  
by Peter Gray:

[As Children's Freedom Has Declined, So Has  
Their Creativity](#)





**Nature Play is a Pathway to Health and Happiness for  
all ages, anywhere, anytime**

**Play, Explore, Create!**

Wishing you all a fun week with Nature Play!

[www.marghanita.com](http://www.marghanita.com)