Engaging Outdoor Play: The ECE Administrator’s Role

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Ol’ Director had a playspace,
E-I-E-I-O
And on this playspace she had some children,
E-I-E-I-O
With a wiggle here,
And a giggle there,
Here a hop, there a stomp,
Everywhere a romp, romp!
Ol’ Director had a playspace,

E-I-E-I-O!
Poll #1

Which best describes your belief about why children need to play outdoors?

- A) To get rid of excess energy or to relax
- B) To learn about the world and to discover ideas and solutions
“E”
Examine Attitudes and Beliefs
Outdoor Play Policy
Hiring Criteria
“Do As I Do”
In what way can I say “YES!”?
“I”

Imagine
What are the children doing?
What are the adults doing?
What kind of place?
In what way can I say "YES!"?
“E”

Embrace Risk
Provide a safe environment
Too safe?
Children are competent and capable
In what way can I say “YES!”?
Include All
genders, abilities, preferences
graded challenges vs. age appropriate
In what way can I say “YES!”?
Opportunities for Outdoor Play
Loose Parts
Rich
Engaging
Wonder-filled
In what way can I say “YES!”?
Poll #2

I heard a “call to action”! My first step to engaging outdoor play in my program is:

- A) To share my passion and ideas with staff and families.
- B) To create plans and projects to enhance outdoor play.
- C) To seek more information and expand my knowledge about outdoor play.
Let’s talk!

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If someone said, “Write a sentence about your life”, I’d write, “I want to go outside and play.”

~Jemma Elfman