

*Growing Up WILD* is an early childhood education program that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them.



## *Growing Up WILD* Goals

- Encouraging attachment and comfort with the outdoors.
- Learning through active outdoor exploration and play.
- Increasing opportunities for children to be outdoors.
- Assisting in the future development of nature stewards.
- Meeting education and developmental goals and standards.
- Prioritizing outreach to diverse and economically disadvantaged children.
- Emphasizing literacy.



# *Growing Up WILD*

Targets educators for  
children ages 3-7





## *Growing Up WILD*

- Includes 27 activities
- field-tested,
  - hands-on,
  - nature based activities



# *Growing Up WILD*

Foster learning in all domains

- social, emotional, physical, language, and cognitive domains



## *Growing Up WILD*

Is correlated to the  
National Association for  
the Education of Young  
Children (NAEYC)  
Standards and the Head  
Start Domains



## GUW Supports developmentally appropriate practice (DAP)

- guide uses a variety of teaching strategies.
- child-initiated and teacher-directed learning experiences.
- opportunities to learn through play
  - “Take Me Outside”
  - “Centers and Extensions” components.





Each G UW activity has a “Mighty Math” component connecting math to nature and everyday life. Children can

- Practice using math vocabulary,
- Sort, compare and classify objects,
- Display data with graphs and pictures,
- Identify shapes, and
- Make measurements.





G UW promotes early literacy experiences.

- Read-aloud fiction and nonfiction books.
- Music & Movement
- Student Resource Pages
- Nature Notebook
- Wild Wonderful Words



## G UW supports healthful practices in early childhood settings

- Healthy Me
- Snacks—fruits, vegetables and whole grains
- Take Me Outside—include physical activities like running games or nature hikes
- Music & Movement—dance, role play and other physical activities.

## G UW promotes creative expression.

- Art projects use a wide variety of materials and art forms.
- Many art projects involve free expression.
- Many activities include ideas for dramatic play.
- “Music & Movement” components include songs related to the activity topic.



## **G UW promotes scientific inquiry.**

- Activities encourage children to explore the world around them.
- “Ants on Parade” models the scientific method.
- “Field Study Fun” outlines a simple field investigation.
- Many activities utilize inquiry.
- Tips for maximizing benefits of inquiry included in front matter for educators.





G UW provides several ways to support educators' assessment efforts.



- “Warm Up” helps determine children’s prior understanding of a topic.
- “Wrap Up” reviews what they have learned.
- Nature Notebooks
- Graphing, artistic representations, taking digital photos, creating field guides



*If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children, I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life.*

Rachel Carson

