

# Nature Based Education Institute

May 19, 2018

Sponsored by University of Maine at Farmington

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## **Session Title:** How to Bring Nature Inside the 4 Walls

Session E 10:30-11:45

Location: Conference Room 123

### **Presenter**

- Miyako Kinoshita (mkinoshita@greenchimneys.org)

### **Who will benefit most from this session?**

- Any age/grade Educator

### **Who else may benefit:**

- School Administrators

**Session Description:** At Green Chimneys, we are fortunate to utilize the farm and natural environment every day in teaching with 150 animals and 2.5 acres of garden space. There are many opportunities for experiential learning where academic and social skills are taught in the “real situation”. As we all are aware, studies show that retention of knowledge is greatly influenced by how tangible the information is, and how useful it is in the real life. This is especially true when you are working with visual and tactile learners. How can we bring hands-on experiential, and sensory-oriented learning experiences into the classrooms where we are segregated from the nature by four walls and windows? Are there ways to bring children outside these walls in the traditional school settings? Nature also has a calming effect on people: How can we bring the calming effect of the outside into the classrooms? We will explore opportunities and our own creativity in this workshop to take advantage of the elements of Nature that can be brought inside and possible ways to bring the children outside during school to enhance their learning.

### **Presenter Biography**

Miyako Kinoshita is the current Farm Education Program Manager at the Green Chimneys Farm and Wildlife Center and Sam and Myra Ross Institute at Green Chimneys. She serves as the key facilitator for over 200 children with psychosocial disabilities currently in residence and day school and facilitates and supervises a wide range of animal and plant based nature assisted programs. She manages and supervises Human-Animal Interactions and Horticulture Activities as well as co-treats clients directly with clinicians on campus.

With a diverse background in special education she specializes in emotional and behavioral crisis and management in Animal-Assisted Activity and Animal-Assisted Education settings. Miyako trains and supervises 12 Sam and Myra Ross institute interns every semester, and consults with the therapists on campus on how to incorporate animals and nature into therapy sessions.

As a noted speaker, Miyako has lectured extensively in the United States and internationally at regional

and national conferences. Her lectures have taken her to State University of New York at New Paltz, University of Denver School of Social Work, University of Maine, and Azabu University and Teikyo University in Japan, among others. As a member of the institute, Miyako works with the department director to organize and run the international Human Animal Interaction Conference at Green Chimneys.