

Nature Based Education Institute

May 19, 2018

Sponsored by University of Maine at Farmington

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Session Title: Designing for Quality Play

Session M 2:00-3:15

Location: North Dining Hall B

Presenters

- Sashie Misner

Who will benefit most from this session?

- Early educators (B-5 age students)

Who else may benefit:

- Early educator directors/administrators
- Primary grade educators (Pk- Grade 3)
- Upper elementary educators (Grade 4-6)
- Any age/grade Educator

Session Description: Children learn through play, and research has shown that nature is an essential element within play environments. The design of the play environment is directly related to the quality of play and learning opportunities. This session will review research on child development and show how to organize one's space for supporting self-directed play opportunities, and engaging children in focused/deep play. Nature has been shown to be one of the best elements in supporting this type of play.

Session Learning Outcomes:

- Participants will be able to evaluate their own play environments for whether they are meeting children's whole child development needs
- Participants will learn ways to improve their play environments to support whole child development

How will participants engage in nature during your session? Attendees will be discussing nature's role in creating quality play opportunities and learning ways to integrate nature within their own play environments.

Presenter Biography

Sashie is a landscape architect with a passion for play environments. She believes quality play is essential for children's development and has helped numerous educators expand play opportunities within their play spaces.