

Nature Based Education Institute

May 19, 2018

Sponsored by University of Maine at Farmington

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Session Title: Impressions in Nature

Session N 2:00 - 3:15

Location: North Dining Hall C

Presenters

- Christina Thibault
- Amy Valentine

Who will benefit most from this session?

- Any age/grade Educator

Session Description: The goal of this session is to introduce participants to simple materials (clay, pine cones, leaves etc.) and techniques that can be integrated together and easily added to a classroom setting/cross curricula activities.

We hope to promote creative thinking through hands-on, kinesthetic learning activities, to help participants gain further knowledge of the creative process and how to use the tools available in most settings that will allow them to successfully provide a clay working opportunity to the children they serve.

We will take the participants through the class as if they were their own students. Curriculum connections will consist of: integrating science into the lesson by observing nature, identifying the objects we have found, and discussing the important role they play in nature; literary connections by introducing stories that connect art with nature and writing/drawing/collecting what they see; visual arts connections by making nature journals; Math connection/extensions could be scavenger hunts (find 10 acorns, 5 small sticks); gross motor connections by being outside, walking, running etc. and fine motor with working the clay with one's hands, pinching the clay, rolling with rollers. We will discuss process art, the elements of design and how artist engage with nature and their creative process.

How will participants engage in nature during your session? Participants will go on a nature walk with the presenter to collect items needed for the project.

Presenter Biographies

- Christina Thibault has worked with children for nearly 10 years. She is passionate about Art and Science and providing children with opportunities to grow as creative problem solvers and independent thinkers. She received a BFA in Sculpture from Maine College of Art as well as a BFA in Studio Art with an Art Ed. Concentration from USM. She is an avid stitcher and crocheter and enjoys creating mixed media artwork with fiber and repurposed materials.
- Amy Valentine's passion is to enrich and inspire children and adults through the Arts and Sciences. She holds a Bachelor's of Science in Special Education and Elementary Education from University of Maine Farmington. She has taught as a Reading Specialist in grades K-8 and is currently Director

for the Community Arts Center in Gorham. She loves to teach children about the natural world, is an avid hiker and bird watcher.