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# Nature-Based Preschool National Conference

**August 2-5, 2017**

Seattle, Washington • Seattle University

## Registration Guide



[naturalstart.org](http://naturalstart.org)



## Conference Overview

### Wednesday, August 2

Registration Opens, 5–7 pm

**Highlights:** Registration and networking reception at Seattle University

### Thursday, August 3

Conference Sessions, 9 am–5 pm

**Highlights:** Registration, keynote address, interactive sessions, research poster session, additional pre- and post-conference enrichment sessions

Meals: Lunch, reception, dinner

### Friday, August 4

Conference Sessions 9 am–5 pm

**Highlights:** Panel discussions, interactive sessions, closing address

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, reception

### Saturday, August 5

Field Trips with full-day and half-day options

**Highlights:** Visit area nature-based preschool programs

Meals and Transportation: Transportation included; boxed lunch also provided for full-day option

**Register by July 25** to secure your spot!

## Registration Fees

### Conference Registration, \$325

Includes Wednesday registration and networking reception; Thursday sessions, lunch, and dinner; Friday sessions, breakfast, lunch.

**Field Trips:** August 5

Half-day option: \$30, includes transportation

Full-day option: \$60, includes lunch and transportation

## To Register

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## Keynote Speaker August 3

### Dr. Debra Sullivan

**Equity and Identity: A Sociocultural Examination of Nature-based Early Childhood Education**

In just a few decades, the field of nature-based early childhood education has grown from a scattering of dedicated educators into a full-fledged international movement. As the field matures, we face an increasing need for definition, for answers to questions with profound implications: What does it mean to practice nature-based preschool? How do we set standards without becoming exclusionary? Who are we teaching to, and why? This line of inquiry is one that will ultimately influence the design and makeup of our classrooms and demographics in far-reaching ways. Using a lens of sociocultural anthropology, Dr. Debra Ren-Etta Sullivan will frame the development of our broader identity as a field through her exploration of the larger social, cultural, and historical contexts in which we operate and spearhead a meaningful conversation about the true nature of equity in both policy and practice.

### **About Dr. Sullivan**

Dr. Sullivan serves as the President of the Seattle Affiliate of the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI). The focus of her work is implementing appropriate learning environments for Black children and increasing advocacy for their educational rights. She has worked in higher education for thirty years as a teacher, researcher, curriculum developer, administrator, and education coach. Dr. Sullivan has a doctorate in Educational Leadership, a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and a bachelor's degree in Cultural Anthropology. She is also the author of three books. Her most recent book, *Cultivating the Genius of Black Children*, guides teachers in creating classrooms that support the learning needs of Black children.

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# Nature-Based Preschool National Conference

## Conference Strands:



**Nature Preschool 101**—Sessions in this strand are most appropriate for those who are interested in starting a nature-based preschool program or learning more about the field. Examples of topics include: business planning, innovative partnerships, licensing programs, and more.



**Teaching**—Sessions in this strand are most appropriate for educators who are interested in refining their practice as educators in nature-based programs. Examples of topics include: teaching strategies, documentation and assessment, and curriculum design and implementation.



**Administration**—Sessions in this strand are most appropriate for administrators who are running nature-based programs. Examples of topics include: best practices in nature-based education, fundraising, and marketing nature-based programs.



**Research**—Sessions allow participants to meet researchers in nature-based education, learn about their research, and engage in group discussions on research topics in a roundtable format.

### Graduate Credits Available

Interested in receiving graduate credits for your participation in the conference? Optional graduate credits (2 credits) are available through Hamline University.

Contact Patty Born Selly at [pselly01@hamline.edu](mailto:pselly01@hamline.edu) to learn more.

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## Field Trips

### Saturday, August 5

Seattle is home to an incredibly diverse – and rapidly expanding – nature-based preschool community. Gather new ideas and inspiration by visiting Seattle-area nature-based preschool programs! Full and half day options are available to highlight some of these programs. Full day trips depart at 9 am and return at 3 pm; half day trips depart at 9:15 am and return at 1:15 pm. Half day trip includes drop-off at the SeaTac airport as well. Please note that we must reach minimum attendance to run each trip; a refund for the cost of the trip will be given if cancelled.

**Full Day trip:** \$60 (includes a boxed lunch and transportation)

**Half Day trip:** \$30 (includes transportation)

### Option 1: Full Day (9 am–3 pm)

**This trip visits:** Polliwog Preschool at Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, Tiny Trees Preschool at Jefferson Park, and Seattle Children’s Playgarden. Trip begins and ends at Seattle University. Lunch is included.



The **Polliwog Preschool** at Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center is made possible by a partnership between the Pacific Science Center and the City of Bellevue. It offers a play-based, multi-aged program for children ages 3-5 years old, in which nature is used at the ideal catalyst for discovery and stimulation.



**Tiny Trees** is dedicated to helping children enter kindergarten ready to thrive as a 100% outdoor forest immersion program. Children learn to read, succeed at math, and explore the wild, getting both a world-class science education and a gleefully muddy childhood full of play, exploration, and wonder in the great outdoors. Tiny Trees has several locations and is a partnership with Seattle Parks and Recreation, which helps to keep this program affordable and accessible to families.



The **PlayGarden** was founded on the core principles of adventure play, garden-to-table, and full inclusion. This one-acre urban oasis offers safe, supportive, accessible, and innovative play for children of all abilities to play, learn, and grow.



**If you'd like to learn more about these programs, please visit:**

<https://www.pacificsciencecenter.org/preschools/polliwog-preschool/>

<https://tinytrees.org/enroll/jefferson-park-beacon-hill-light-rail/>

<https://www.childrensplaygarden.org/>

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### Option 2: Full Day (9 am–3 pm)

**This trip visits:** Discovery Park Nature Kids Preschool, Daybreak Star Preschool at the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation (UIATF), and Fiddleheads Forest School. Trip begins and ends at Seattle University. Lunch is included.

**Discovery Park Nature Kids Preschool** provides an enriching, fun, child-centered program. They nurture the emotional, social, physical, and academic growth of children by providing hands-on experiences in the classroom and outdoors. These experiences all take place within a loving, creative, and respectful environment.

In partnership with the City of Seattle, **United Indians of all Tribes Foundation Daybreak Star Preschool** is proud to provide children and families with a culturally relevant, high-quality early education experience. The focus is for children to develop a strong educational foundation integrated with Indigenous knowledge and cultural experience.

Seattle’s pioneering outdoor preschool program. **Fiddleheads Forest School** believes that children are intrinsically motivated to learn, and that they do so by exploring the world around them. They aim to foster a sense of wonder, to guide rather than compel, and to provide room for possibility rather than attempt to constrain children’s interests to fit within a certain curriculum. Trip visits both Fiddleheads locations at the Washington Park Arboretum.

**If you’d like to learn more about these programs, please visit:**

<https://www.seattle.gov/parks/find/centers/discovery-park-environmental-learning-center/discovery-park-nature-kids>

<http://www.unitedindians.org/programs/daybreak-star-preschool/>

<https://botanicgardens.uw.edu/education/youth-family/fiddleheads-forest-school/>

### Option 3: Half Day (9:15 am–1:15 pm)

**This trip visits:** Farm & Nature Preschool at Farrel McWhirter Park and Tiny Treks. Trip begins and ends at Seattle University; SeaTac airport is the final stop (at noon) before returning to S.U. Lunch is not included.

The mission of the **Farm & Nature Preschool** is to provide a nature and play-based experiential learning environment to help foster a sustainable culture in their community. Through time spent outdoors in nature as well as through free play and group time in their preschool cottage, children have opportunities to learn about what interests them in ways that are effective and meaningful.

**Tiny Treks** is an innovative outdoor program for children 2-5 years old. For almost 20 years, they have been teaching and living a belief that children learn best through hands-on experiences, which build self-esteem and encourage a love of nature. Tiny Treks families enjoy the natural world while staying connected to each other in the process. Tiny Treks has locations throughout WA, CA, and IL.

**If you’d like to learn more about these programs, please visit:**

[http://www.redmond.gov/ParksRecreation/farrel-mcwhirter\\_farm\\_park\\_programs/Farrel-McWhirterPreschool](http://www.redmond.gov/ParksRecreation/farrel-mcwhirter_farm_park_programs/Farrel-McWhirterPreschool)

<http://www.tinytreks.com/nwtinytreks>



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## Lodging



### Let's stay together!

#### Seattle University

Seattle University offers very affordable lodging right at the conference location. You can book your room directly through S.U. when it becomes available (on or about May 15th). Follow links to preview S.U.'s *Deluxe Residence Hall Accommodations* and *Standard Residence Hall Accommodations*. When you reserve a room, please indicate that you are visiting with the "Nature-Based Preschool National Conference".

There are a limited number of rooms available, so don't delay!

Address: 901 12th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122

#### More Lodging Nearby

Silver Cloud Hotel:

<https://www.silvercloud.com/seattlebroadway/>

Gaslight Inn: <http://www.gaslight-inn.com/>

#### Travel Around Seattle

**Airport:** SeaTac International Airport, [www.portseattle.org/Sea-Tac](http://www.portseattle.org/Sea-Tac)

**Airport Shuttles:**

Shuttle Express, [www.shuttleexpress.com/seattle-seatac-airport-transportation](http://www.shuttleexpress.com/seattle-seatac-airport-transportation)

Go SpeediShuttle,

[www.goairportshuttle.com/city/spse1](http://www.goairportshuttle.com/city/spse1)

Light Rail: <http://m.soundtransit.org/schedule>

## Seattle Highlights

Extending your stay? Check out these great spots:



#### Burke Museum

[www.burkemuseum.org](http://www.burkemuseum.org)

The Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, founded in 1885, is the oldest public museum in WA. The Burke holds deep respect for Indigenous knowledge

and is dedicated to collaborating with diverse Native populations, sharing collections, and learning together.

#### Elliott Bay Book Company

[www.elliottbaybook.com](http://www.elliottbaybook.com)

Located in the heart of Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood (walking distance from Seattle University), The Elliott Bay Book Company is a full-service bookstore, home to over 150,000 titles, set on cedar shelves in a multi-level, inviting atmosphere.

#### Volunteer Park

[www.seattle.gov/parks](http://www.seattle.gov/parks)

This park is home to trails, a water tower you can walk up for views of the city, and a lovely Conservatory.

Hungry? Visit the nearby Volunteer Park Café for lunch or coffee and a pastry.



#### Reducing Our Carbon Footprint

Natural Start is working with Renewable Choice Energy to reduce the environmental impact of our conference. You can easily purchase verified emission reductions on your registration form. This voluntary effort will help balance the carbon dioxide emissions associated with your travel to the conference and use of resources during your stay. Renewable Choice supports a variety of domestic and international projects that conform to leading standards.

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