



Favorite Nature Play Quotes

"The most effective kind of education is that a child should play amongst lovely things." — Plato (Greek philosopher, 428? - 347 BC)

"Every child should have mud pies, grasshoppers, water bugs, tadpoles, frogs, mud turtles, elderberries, wild strawberries, acorns, chestnuts, trees to climb. Brooks to wade, water lilies, woodchucks, bats, bees, butterflies, various animals to pet, hayfields, pinecones, rocks to roll, sand, snakes, huckleberries and hornets. And any child who has been deprived of these has been deprived of the best part of education."

— Luther Burbank (American horticulturalist and botanist, 1849 - 1926)

"... a ditch somewhere - or a creek, meadow, woodlot, or marsh.... These are places of initiation, where the borders between ourselves and other creatures break down, where the earth gets under our nails and a sense of place gets under our skin.... Everybody has a ditch, or ought to. For only the ditches and the field, the woods, the ravines - can teach us to care enough for all the land."

— Robert Michael Pyle, The Thunder Tree, 1993

"Hands-on experience at the critical time, not systematic knowledge, is what counts in the making of a naturalist. Better to be an untutored savage for a while, not to know the names or anatomical detail. Better to spend long stretches of time just searching and dreaming." — E.O. Wilson, The Naturalist, 1994

"For ourselves, and for our planet, we must be both strong and strongly connected — with each other, with the earth. As children, we need time to wander, to be outside, to nibble on icicles, watch ants, to build with dirt and sticks in the hollow of the earth, to lie back and contemplate clouds...."

Gary Paul Nabhan & Stephen Trimble, The Geography of Childhood, 2004

"Knowledge without love will not stick. But if love comes first, knowledge is sure to follow."

— John Burroughs (American naturalist, 1837 - 1921)

"Passion does not arrive on videotape or on a CD; passion is personal. Passion is lifted from the earth itself by the muddy hands of the young, it travels along grass-stained sleeves to the heart. If we are going to save environmentalism and the environment, we must also save an endangered indicator species: the child in nature.

— Richard Louv, Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder, 2005

"The future of mankind is dependent on every human being intimately associated with a half acre of ground." -- Frank Lloyd Wright (American architect, 1867 - 1959)

"Nature should be considered a critical variable in the design of all childhood habitats, including homes, childcare centers, schools, places of worship, and neighborhoods, and in the many other community places where children go with family and friends: botanical gardens, museums, city parks, etc." -- Robin Moore, Natural Learning Initiative, North Carolina State University

"Imagination is more important than knowledge." — Albert Einstein

"The special places that stood out in memory, where people formed a first bond with the natural world, were always part of the regular rhythm of life: the garden or nearby lake or forest where people played as children, the summer cabin or grandparents' farm that was visited repeatedly in the course of growing up, favorite hiking trails during the university years. In these places, people became comfortable with being out in the natural world, usually alone or with a small group of family or friends."

— Louise Chawla, "Life Paths Into Effective Environmental Action;" *The Journal of Environmental Education*; Fall 1999.