

# PATHWAYS TO PLAY: OVERCOMING NATURE PLAY BARRIERS

## FAMILY BARRIERS

### Time

Make nature play a priority like any other scheduled event and use the time for quality family bonding too.

### Dirt

It's natural for kids to explore the world around them, so be prepared with a change of clothes and let 'em make mud pies.

### Access

Nature play can happen almost anywhere, from a single puddle to a day at the zoo or aquarium and beyond.

### Injuries

Nature play allows kids to learn their own boundaries and take calculated risks.

### Difficulty "Unplugging"

Bring your smart phone to learn more about wildlife and plants along the way.

### Safety

Nature play fosters awareness and self-confidence as kids grow and learn outside.

### Stranger Danger

Join or start a Family Nature Club for fun and safety in numbers.

### Weather

No such thing as bad weather if you're well-prepared, so bundle up and feel invincible!

## PROGRAMMING BARRIERS

### Staffing

Integrate into programs with existing staff and engage volunteers or Family Nature Clubs.

### Space

Small areas can be used for "micro-hikes" or mini-gardens while partners can provide larger outdoor spaces.

### Cost

Collect natural and reusable materials and utilize volunteer resources. Explore opportunities for partnership and sponsorships.

### Upkeep

Nature spaces are low-maintenance areas where creativity abounds. Messy means children are learning, and guests stay longer when having fun!

### Liability

Institutions are built for safety in mind and include staff trained in First Aid.

### Accessibility

Exploration is a universal activity. Zoos and aquariums help guests connect to the natural world.

### Priority

Nature play augments zoo and aquarium missions, supplements attendance, membership, and donations, and fosters engaged conservation stewards.

