

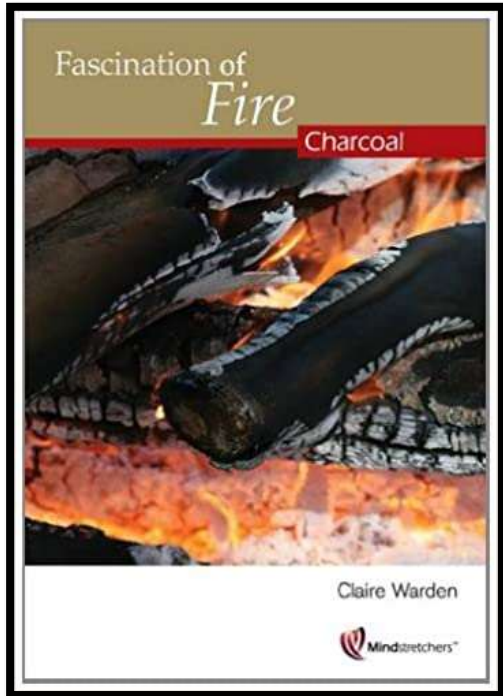
Branching Out

Resource Updates to Support the Growth and Goals of Educators



We are spending a lot more time outside these days with the children, so what better time to explore the four natural elements: fire, water, air, and earth? The ECCDC has resources to support this learning both in our resource lending library for borrowing and on our e-store for purchasing.

Resources to Support the Element of Fire



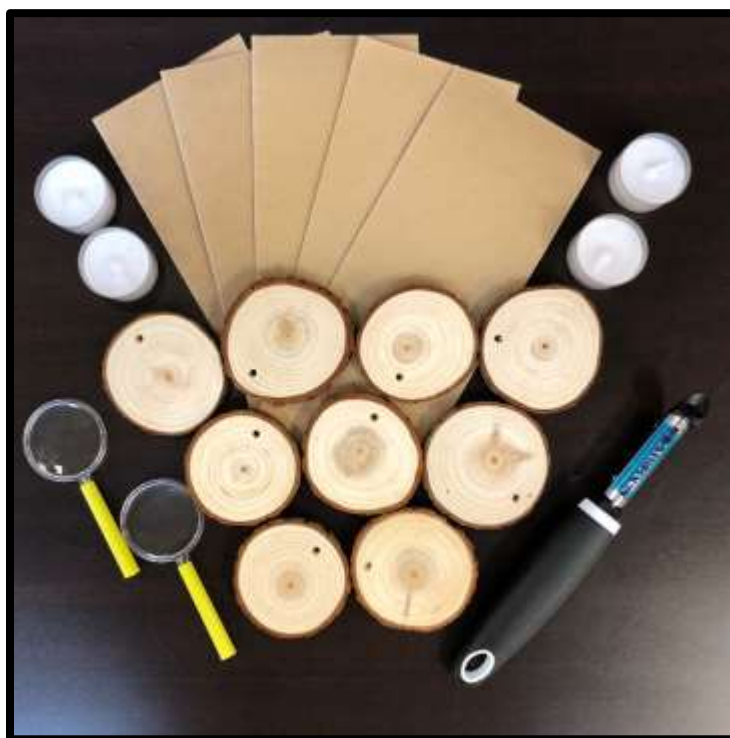
Fascination of Fire - Charcoal By Claire Warden

This book is a part of an inspiring series which takes away any barriers to teaching and learning in natural environments. The series of books is designed to offer support to staff to raise their own knowledge and skills. It provides information, links, and progression in learning with benefit-risk assessments all in one place. A must for all who are learning outside.



S'mores & Campfire Set

Perhaps as an educator you are still a bit nervous about introducing "fire" into your programming with children. If that is the case, the S'mores Campfire set is a great resource to get you started. Children can act out their campfire experiences while you share tips about safety with the hopes that you can build on the experience as you feel more comfortable.



Exploring the Element of Fire Starter Kit (available on our E-store)

Exploring fire with young children may be outside your comfort zone as an educator so this Exploring the Element of Fire Starter kit may help to ease those apprehensions and provide some simple activities to encourage children's exploration of fire. This starter kit includes 4 tea light candles, 2 magnifying glasses, sandpaper, vegetable peeler and 9 tree slices.

Check out our Tik Tok video highlighting this resource: [click here](#)

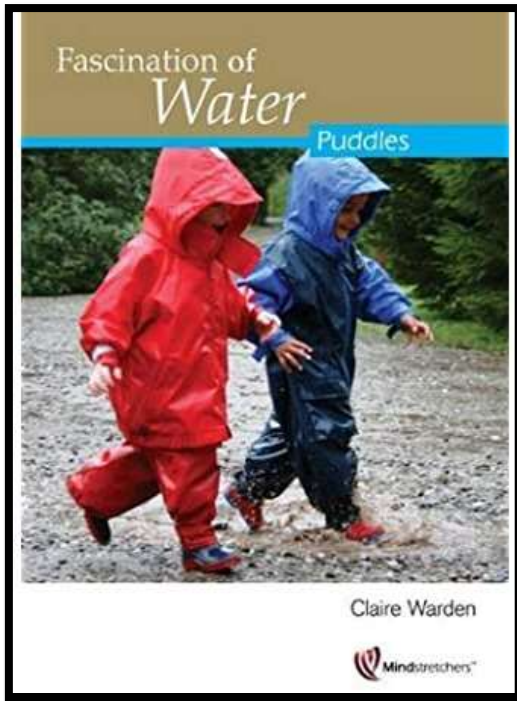


Branching Out

Resource Updates to Support the Growth and Goals of Educators



Resources to Support the Element of Water



Fascination of Water - Puddles By Claire Warden

Puddles are one of the most wonderful play materials that nature can provide. It is wonderful to see children meet a puddle for the first time and see it with such awe and wonder; adults can see them through a different lens. The question for us as practitioners and educators is: how do we start to reveal the possibilities of something as simple as a puddle, that belies such complex learning?



Water Drop Labyrinth

This beautiful wooden resource invites children to engage in small scale water play. Adding drops of water with a pipette and moving the maze around, allows children to move the water through the labyrinth. Small water droplets may connect to form larger droplets. Add in some coloring to the water and it will take this play to a whole other level.



Exploring the Element of Water Starter Kit (available on our E-store)

There is more to water play than floating and sinking! One of the best resources in an early learning and child care setting is to incorporate flowing water into activities. Everyday household items can create waterfalls, water flows, watercourses, and much more. This Exploring the Element of Water Starter kit includes a metal pail, 2 lengths of clear tubing and a collection of different length zip ties.

Check out our Tik Tok video highlighting this resource: [click here](#)



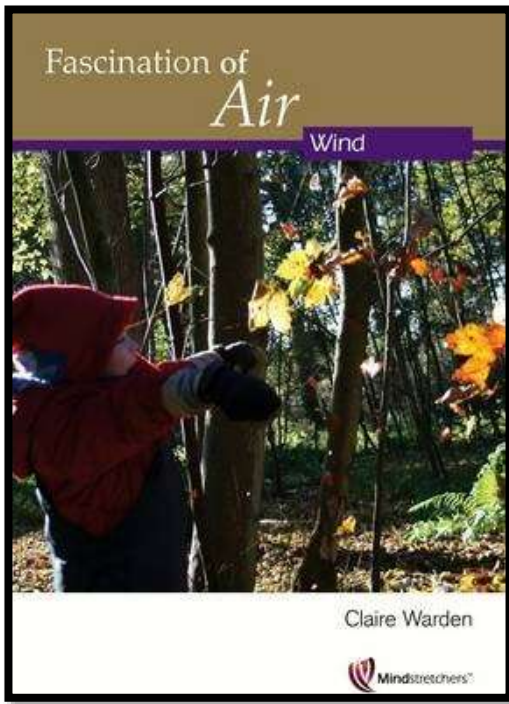
Presents ...

Branching Out

Resource Updates to Support the Growth and Goals of Educators



Resources to Support the Element of Air



Fascination of Air - Wind By Claire Warden

This book is designed to show the learning pathway between multiple environments of inside, outside, and beyond, with children 2 to 11. It offers educators the chance to examine the learning beyond the obvious; to listen to children's voices as they share with us their fascinations about the wind they feel and watch, as it moves the world around them.



Exploring Sounds of Nature through Music

This newly updated provocation for learning kit offers a new way of thinking when it comes to music. Nature offers its own breathtaking sounds, and this kit helps to recreate some of those sounds inside. What kind of song will the bamboo windchime make in your program?



Exploring the Element of Air Starter Kit

Air is all around us! There are so many innovative activities which incorporate air into your early learning and child care environments and the experiences you offer children. This Exploring the Element of Air Starter kit focuses on the use of bubbles to investigate airflow and it includes a recipe card, 1 container with lid, corn starch, backing powder, Dawn dish soap, vegetable glycerin and assorted pipe cleaners.

Check out our Tik Tok video highlighting this resource:
[click here](#)

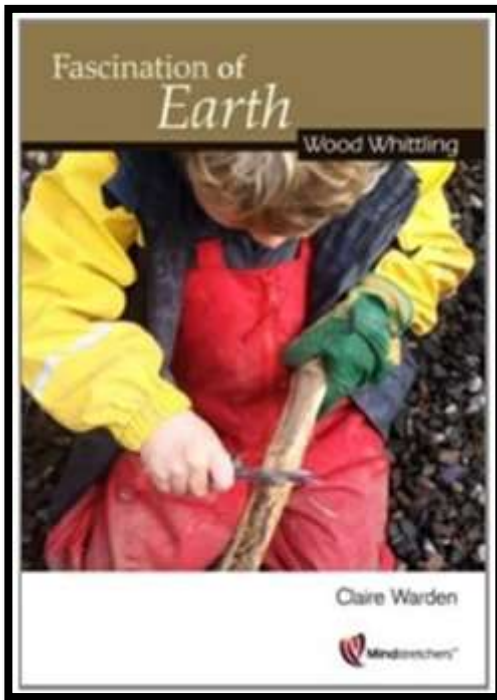


Branching Out

Resource Updates to Support the Growth and Goals of Educators



Resources to Support the Element of Earth



Fascination of Earth – Wood Whittling By Claire Warden

The fascination series is designed to offer support to staff to raise their own knowledge and skills to empower them to use authentic experiences to deliver a broad curriculum, whilst celebrating children's voices as guides to the potential learning possibilities. In 2011 it received three accolades and was described as 'inspirational and sector leading'. Simple, clear, and easy to use for anyone working with children from 3 - 11 years old.



Mud Kitchen Accessories

What better way for children to explore the properties of dirt, mud, and water than exploring in a mud kitchen? This kit contains a variety of metal materials that would be perfect for scooping, mixing, sifting, and stirring.

If you borrow this resource, we would love for you to share the children's creations with us by **emailing** photos to the ECCDC.



Exploring the Element of Earth Starter Kit (available on our E-store)

Children love getting dirty and contrary to popular belief, this is good for them! It is important to utilize the earth, in its many forms, to spark adventure and discovery in children. This Exploring the Element of Earth Starter kit includes a tablecloth, 3 packages of clay, 5 clay tools, 1 roll of tape, assorted wooden dowels, craft sticks and natural loose parts.

Click here to purchase your set.

it can never be too early to start planning for International Mud Day on Tuesday June 29, 2021. Check out our **video** to give you some ideas!



Branching Out

Resource Updates to Support the Growth and Goals of Educators



Farr Out Findings



Splashing the water, playing in the dirt, sitting around the campfire, and flying a kite: children are exploring the four elements as they should. The four natural elements of fire, water, air, and earth support children's connection to the outdoors & science. Finding ways to use the four elements within the early learning environment can require some thought but is ultimately rewarding.

Let's begin with fire; young children and this element would typically make an educator uncomfortable. However, with proper guidance and safety measures in place, an educator can explore the element with children. Learning the properties of fire can prompt further learning opportunities and an understanding of fire safety.

Next is water, a common element used in early learning environments already. The element of water can be elevated through an educator's desire to incorporate it in new ways. For example, making ice and adding in natural loose parts like grass, leaves, sticks, etc., can also incorporate the earth element and create a new sensory experience. Innovative ways to explore water will foster children's natural sense of curiosity.

Air is all around us yet cannot be seen with the naked eye. A simple way to start the conversation of the element of air is taking children outdoors with a pinwheel, a leaf or any other item that can show the movement of the wind. Discussing the observations made by this activity can lead to further experimentation.

Lastly is the element of earth. Contrary to popular belief playing in the dirt is good for children. Having time to dig their toes in the mud and mess about is not only fun but beneficial to overall healthy development.

The four elements in the early learning environment can be used in the early learning environment on their own or together. Whatever way you choose to use these elements, act as a co-learner and most importantly have fun.



Looking for additional support?

The ECCDC has developed an amazing four-part training series that would support educators in implementing the four elements into their programs. Although in-person training may not be possible for larger groups, we are able to offer this series in-person for smaller ones. Have a larger group that could benefit from this training series? Don't worry, we have that covered too! During the past few months, we have been working on transforming our sessions to webinar format so we can meet the needs of our community while staying safe and keeping healthy. If you would like to learn more about Customized Training opportunities please [email](#) us or [click here](#) to have a look at our customized sessions to preview some other possible topics being offered.

Branching Out

Resource Updates to Support the Growth and Goals of Educators



Introducing the 'Elements' into your Early Learning and Child Care Environment

Research has highlighted the importance of children having contact with the natural environment. Find out what this means in practice and how you can incorporate it into everyday activities. This four-part series will look at how educators can incorporate the four 'non-living'

elements: Air, Water, Fire, and Earth into an early learning and child care setting and how this aligns with Ontario's Early Learning Frameworks: *Early Learning for Every Child Today* and *How Does Learning Happen?* Within each session, participants will have an opportunity to explore the concept of "messing about" and will gain strategies related to reflective practice using *A Thinking Lens® for Reflection and Inquiry*.



Elements Series Part 1: Introducing Air into an Early Learning and Child Care Setting

Air is all around us! This interactive workshop will give participants an opportunity to discuss, share, and learn about new activities that incorporate air in an early learning and child care setting. Participants will develop an innovative list of activities which incorporate air to utilize in their setting for both activities for children and the environment. There will also be an opportunity, utilizing loose parts, to make and try out the activities.

Elements Series Part 2: Introducing Earth Activities Into Your Early Learning and Child Care Setting

Children love getting dirty and contrary to popular belief, this is actually good for them! This interactive workshop will discuss the research, benefits, and importance of introducing earth into everyday activities. Participants will develop a portfolio of resources and activities that utilize the earth, in its many forms, to spark adventure and discovery in children. Participants are asked to bring a small amount of soil from their backyards to this session.

Elements Series Part 3: Introducing Water Activities into an Early Learning and Child Care Setting

There's more to water play than floating and sinking! Find out why one of the best resources in an early learning and child care setting is a tap. During this workshop participants will have the opportunity to discuss and explore new and innovative ways in which to utilize water to spark inquiry. This is a hands-on session during which educators will have the opportunity to participate in practical activities that will foster curiosity, experimentation, and imagination in children. Come and see how to incorporate flowing water into activities and how everyday household items can create waterfalls, water flows, watercourses, and much more.

Elements Series Part 4: Introducing Fire Activities into an Early Learning and Child Care Setting

The fourth and final thought-provoking session of this series will include discussing the research regarding the benefits of utilizing fire, in its various forms, in an early learning and child care setting and what this means in practice. Activities for all comfort levels will be included; from making candles, to dream boats, to cooking with fire using barbecues and campfires. It will dispel the myths around fire and support educators to feel comfortable utilizing fire in their practice. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the concept of risk-benefit analysis. So, let us help you to explore your 'fire comfort zone' and push your boundaries.

