

Nature Outdoor Learning and Play

Main activities and events of the SIG in the past year.

1. NOLAP workshop at BCF Curriculum for Wellbeing event: We were invited to facilitate a workshop on Saturday 14th March in London, titled 'More than fun and games - the serious side of learning in nature'. This was a collaborative activity with the British Curriculum Forum, see <https://www.bera.ac.uk/community/british-curriculum-forum> Sadly the event had to be cancelled, however we recorded our workshop as a contribution to the virtual event - May 2020! Our aim with the recording is to share some of our ways of teaching in a non-didactic manner that encourages involvement.
2. On behalf of the NOLAP sig, we also recorded an online presentation. This has included an online presentation on the Importance of Nature: before, during and after Covid-19. This is part of series: The Impact of Covid-19. It is available at: <https://www.bera.ac.uk/media/the-importance-of-nature-before-during-and-after-covid-19>
3. Tracy and Mark have been blown away by the support that BERA have provided us. We were delighted to hold a webinar "Shifting Perspectives on Nature through Pedagogical Practices" on 28 October that was attended by over 100 participants. If you missed this, it is still available on the BERA website <https://www.bera.ac.uk/media/shifting-perspectives-on-nature-through-pedagogical-practices> October 2021

What are the key issues currently affecting your Special Interest Area?

1. Impact of covid a) difficulty in accessing outdoor areas b) the need for all for mental, physical, and all forms of wellbeing through the ability to "access all areas"
2. Closure of outdoor education centres and playgrounds due to DfE guidance
3. Hybrid learning and shift to virtual teaching in H.E. limits creative, spontaneous, improvised, and playful pedagogies

Are there any particular developments for your SIG on the horizon, e.g. newsletters, publications, blogs, events, projects?

1. Special Issue of Research Intelligence
2. Series of Blogs on Health and Wellbeing
3. Summer seminar - post-covid F2F outside! Wales or Scotland - to be inclusively British!

What other organizations does your SIG collaborate with?

1. BCF - British Curriculum Foundation
2. Regional Outdoor Learning Hubs (NW & SW) for the Institute for Outdoor Learning

How has your SIG worked to encourage diversity amongst your membership? How do you plan to encourage diversity in the future?

1. Webinar with national and international visitors
 2. Planned seminar in Wales or Scotland
 3. Forthcoming events planned to deliberately solicit engagement from across all 4 nations and Europe (Ireland, Slovenia etc)
1. an interesting challenge since traditional approaches to outdoor learning, nature and play are culturally constructed. However, by adopting playful approaches we aim to break down conventional pedagogies and approaches to research.
 2. Planning to develop collaborations with other SIGs - lack of IRL (in real life) conference this year hampered our normal networking, (coffee and bar approaches).