



CASE STUDIES

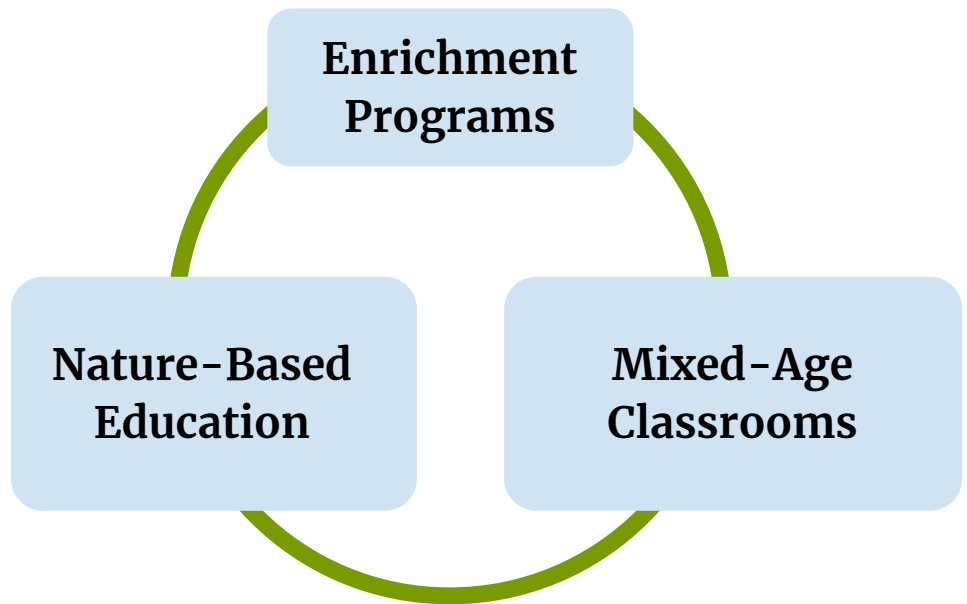
EDUCATION: MIXED-AGED CLASSROOMS & MIXED AGED LEARNING PROGRAMS

STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A MORE RESILIENT, CARING, INCLUSIVE ECONOMY THAT CAN WITHSTAND, ADAPT, INNOVATE, AND TRANSFORM IN THE FACE OF NATURAL AND HUMAN DISASTERS.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THESE CASE STUDIES

This is a collection of case studies for mixed-aged learning programs and classrooms within education, taking a different approach to what is the current normal in our school systems. During focus group conversations with the education industry in the North Country, participants expressed the need and interest to look into different ways of schooling with a more hands-on and outdoor-focused approach. This Case Study has five examples of programs that have a new approach to learning and teaching, including mixed-age classrooms with a process-based learning approach instead of answers-based and nature-based outdoor classrooms and after-school enrichment programs.

Examples Of





TO LEARN MORE...



SCAN ME



MISSION & VISION

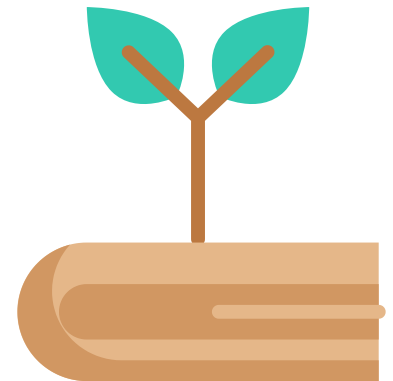
“LEARNING THROUGH THE EXPLORATION OF NATURE, LANGUAGE, ACADEMICS, AND MOVEMENT.”

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

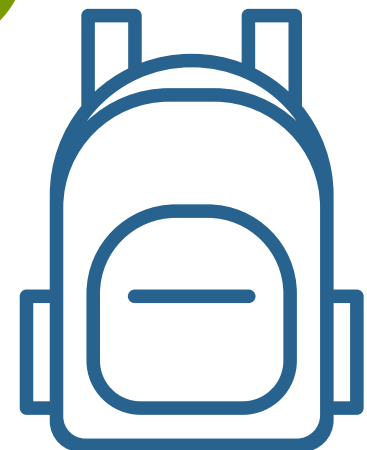
River Farm is an elementary school focused on nature-based education, experiential learning, family bond strengthening, and diversity. Based out of Alexandria, Virginia, River Farm works to strengthen family bonds by requiring parents to be involved in the classroom and by having mixed-age classrooms.

HOW IT WORKS:

River Farm sites Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) for the benefits of mixed-age classrooms. The program allows for older children to become leaders, there is less fear of retention, and competition between children. Teachers and children can develop a deeper bond since they are able to spend several years together. Since the entire group of students spend several years together, they are able to become a “family of learners”, creating a greater sense of care for each other in the classroom.



[Click Here for an Informative Video](#)



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HOLLIS MONTESSORI SCHOOL

| MISSION & VISION

"ASSOCIATION MONTESSORI INTERNATIONAL OF THE UNITED STATES (AMI/USA) IS DEDICATED TO BRINGING THE PRINCIPLES OF DR. MARIA MONTESSORI TO THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN THROUGH ITS SUPPORT AND ADVANCEMENT OF THE AMI MONTESSORI COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES."

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

Hollis Montessori School is located in Hollis, New Hampshire and was founded in 2008. This school is part of Association Montessori International whose principles are based of the educational methods of Dr. Maria Montessori.

"Dr. Maria Montessori was a prominent thinker of her time. Nominated for three Nobel Peace Prizes, her supporters included Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, Helen Keller and Mahatma Gandhi."

HOW IT WORKS:

Hollis Montessori School offers three levels of mixed-age classrooms- primary, elementary, and upper level. Children spend three years in each classroom, giving them the time to develop strong relationships with their teachers and classmates. Being in a learning environment with kids of various ages develops emotional intelligence through learning from and becoming facilitators of learning for each other.



Classroom subjects are explored and taught together in an integrated way, not just moving on from one subject to the next. Students are encouraged to discuss real-world issues and apply them to subjects they are learning in the classroom. The main focus is to encourage students to develop a process of discovery and an Innovative approach, instead of rewarding students for an expected, memorized answer.



Wild Roots Forest School



| MISSION & VISION

“WILD ROOTS OFFERS A CURRICULUM RICH IN DIRECT EXPERIENCE WITH NATURE THAT NURTURES A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND BELONGING AMONG CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND THE LAND. DRAWING ON A DEEP UNDERSTANDING AND CONTINUOUS EXPLORATION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT, OUR SMALL CLASS SIZE, HIGH ADULT/CHILD RATIOS, AND THE CURRICULUM PROVIDE A FOUNDATION OF RESPECT FOR THE DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS AND THE UNIQUE UNFOLDING OF EACH CHILD.”

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

Wild Roots Forest School was founded in 1998 and offers multiple educational opportunities at two locations in California. Wild Roots promotes connecting with nature for children to feel part of a larger community beyond humans and using the natural environment as a foundation for life-long learning.

HOW IT WORKS:

Wild Roots offers educational programs that include preschool, kindergarten, summer camps, and classes for adults focused on providing education. The offered preschool program is mixed age and outdoors. Depending on location, 2 1/2 to 5- or 6-year-old children are accepted into the program.



"WHAT WE LOVE, WE ARE LIKELY TO PROTECT, AND TO LOVE SOMETHING WE MUST KNOW IT. NATURAL SETTINGS AFFORD THE CHILDREN DIRECT EXPERIENCE WITH A WORLD NOT MADE BY HUMANS WHERE WE CAN FEEL OURSELVES A PART OF A LARGER COMMUNITY OF LIFE."

TO LEARN
MORE...



SCAN ME

Music Together
Santa Rosa Area Music Together

| MISSION & VISION

"IMAGINE . . . A CLASS FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD WHERE THERE ARE INTERESTING SOUNDS AND MOVEMENTS, INSTRUMENTS TO PLAY, OTHER CHILDREN TO WATCH, SILLY THINGS TO LAUGH AT, AN INVITING TEACHER TO FOLLOW, AND GREAT MUSIC!"

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

Music Together is an international program that was founded in 1987, built on the idea of all children holding the ability to learn music in the same way that one learns a language. The organization offers several musical classes for young children and their caregivers, including options for classes online and outdoors in order to continue classes safely during the pandemic.



HOW IT WORKS:

Music Together offers many music classes, including a Mixed-Age Family Class. This class is for any child from infancy to the age of 5 and their caregivers. This class provides the opportunity for younger kids to observe and imitate older ones, while older kids learn to lead the younger ones. Having a mixture of ages naturally creates a family-style learning environment. Although the focus of this class is on the development of young children, it is open for the entire family to participate, at any age.



"I loved the outdoor experience. It was as covid safe as possible and it was nice to be outside. Thank you for creating that option. You really thought of everything and it shows. It's nice to be back."

~K. Costello, Santa Rosa mom





TO LEARN
MORE...



| MISSION & VISION

"TO PROVIDE HEALTHY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PLAY AND EDUCATION (HOPE) TO CHILDREN OF ALL ABILITIES THROUGH INCLUSIVE SUPPORTED FREE PLAY AND THERAPEUTIC GROUPS THAT TAKE PLACE IN NATURE."

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

HOPE Grove offers outdoor programs led by an occupational therapist in Hudson, Wisconsin. The program was developed to help children connect with nature to “reclaim the wonder of childhood”. Children have time away from their screens and enjoy more time outside in nature to slow down and enjoy playing with physical activity.



HOW IT WORKS:

The available programs at HOPE Grove include summer camps and winter days off from school. Of the summer camps, HOPE Grove offers a several-day Nature Camp that is a mixed-age program for children ages 4 to 12. While in the natural environment, children of all abilities are able to interact with kids of different ages, helping cultivate independence and creativity.

PROGRAMS & PROJECTS INCLUDE...

HANDWRITING
ENRICHMENT

NATURE
CAMP

HOPE
CREATORS

ACTIVE
FREE PLAY