

February 9th, 2021 at 6:00pm we will host our first meeting of InsideOut Southern Vermont Chapter via zoom. We hope to share successes we are having educating our students in nature during the winter months. We will also leave time to ask questions and problem solve any issues you are facing. We hope this chapter will serve as a supportive community and an educational resource and we look forward to the launch of the Southern Vermont Chapter.

Notes from February 9th 6:00 - 7:00pm

~ 7 in attendance

Next meeting: Tuesday March 9th 6:00 pm on Zoom

Notes

1. Conducting more “formal” literacy and math instruction in the outdoor setting
 - a. Challenges
 - i. Cold hands
 - ii. Materials
 - iii. Focus of student
 - iv. Sitting for too long and student get too cold
 - b. Solutions brainstorm
 - i. Cutting the fingers off the top of gloves
 - ii. Conducting more sedentary “formal” lessons after students have moved a lot
 - iii. Hammocks to get students off the ground
 - iv. Reading groups can work well as you can have some students exploring and making more noise while others can be spaced apart in a quiet small group. This is hard to achieve indoors as noise quickly becomes a factor with 4 walls
2. Resources to share
 - a. https://www.nightheron.com/trees_activityguidesaptime.html
 - b.

Notes from March 9:

Present: Amy, Emma, Colleen, Heidi, Emily

Check out [Timbernook](#)

Challenges:

- Spring wetness and mud (need microspikes!), getting out to the outdoor classroom is challenging with the icy wetness.

- All the sticks and loose parts are covered in snow. Finding balance between movement, staying warm, and creative play
- Managing materials outside

Successes:

- Scavenger hunts for *small* things, lay them out on napkins, then “what’s missing” game
- Ice ornaments, and watching them change in the warming weather
- Mapping the town of Wardsboro with ice chunks
- Dams with ice flows

Questions:

- How are we documenting the learning that is happening outside?
 - Notes taken by teachers
 - Pictures shared on a classroom blog
 - Students documenting what’s happening
- How are different schools handling site safety?
 - Constantly looking up to check for broken branches
 - Staff meeting training on risk management
 - Principal will make a call if it’s too windy to go in the woods
 - Have foresters come check on sketchy trees

Resources to Share:

[Herb the Vegetarian Dragon](#)

[The Knight and the Dragon](#)

Cloth hammocks hung from a horizontally strung ratchet strap

Grassman kids hammocks

[Overstory](#)

Native American Origin Stories

Notes/Agenda - Oct 12, 2021

Present: Aimee, Hiedi, Emma

*Introductions

*What's going well?

- Haunted Forest for Learning at Putney (Aimee)
 - Tombstone Riddles
 - Monster Hall of Fame
 - Haunted Math Stories
 - Freaky Facts
- Hanging work from art class, (or displaying work) in the forest
- Morning meeting outside every day
 - stump surprises (each child gets the same object on their stump, they turn to partners and talk about "I notice" and "I wonder")
- Yoga mats for math games right outside the classroom door
- Great song! Heidi Wilson [patreon.com](https://www.patreon.com/heidiwilson)

*What are your goals for the next month? year?

*What questions do you have or ideas for topics we can address at future meetings?

- Theme study brainstorming
- Songs/games/books
- Guest presenters
- Diverse representation in outdoor topics
- Learning outdoors in winter - how to! (December)

*Check in about meeting times