

Evaluation & WILD Research

Since 1983, at least 40 studies at the national and state level have evaluated Project WILD activities and materials.

This research continues to illustrate that educators use Project WILD because they believe in its value. Project WILD has a positive impact on student knowledge about wildlife, and exposure to Project WILD activities has a positive impact on the attitudes of students towards wildlife and the constructs of wildlife.

The ongoing evaluation of the program indicates that teachers are impressed by the interactive nature of the activities and believe there is value in both the materials and the training. Additionally, educators see the applicability of WILD activities in meeting rigorous educational standards.

The following list contains a series of summaries on all known Project WILD evaluations and scholarly articles. Titles are provided below. If you have an evaluation not included in our Evaluation Library, feel free to share it with us by sending an email to projectwild@fishwildlife.org.

2019

- Activity Modifications for Growing Up WILD: Supporting Young Learners with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Master's Capstone Project by Valerie Coduto.
 - Request copy at projectwild@fishwildlife.org

2018

- [Leading from the Heart of Nature](#)
 - Purchase required

2016

- [Increasing teacher confidence in teaching and technology use through vicarious experiences within an environmental education context](#)
 - Request access to text here
- [Facilitating the Acquisition of Social Skills Through Service Learning](#)

2015

- [In What Ways Are Pre-Service Teachers Being Prepared to Teach K-12 Students About the Environment?: An Investigation of Wisconsin's Teacher Education Programs](#)
- [Wild Beginnings: How a San Antonio initiative instills the love of nature in young children](#)

2014

- [Growing Up WILD: Teaching Environmental Education in Early Childhood](#)
- [ESL/SSL Strategies that Bridge Content and Language in Science: Experiential Learning in an Environmental Education Workshop pp. 498-504](#)
- ["Growing Up WILD": Teaching Environmental Education in Early Childhood](#)

2013

- [Adoption of Growing Up WILD Curriculum by Formal and Non Formal Educators in West Virginia](#)
- [Exploring the Wild World of Wiggly Worms! Science and Children](#)
 - \$0.99 to read for non-members
- [Health Benefits of Outdoor Recreation: Implications for Health Education Donna Breitenstein & Alan Ewert](#)
 - Need access
- [Outdoor/Environmental Education—An Overview for the Wise Use of Leisure Lei Lane Burrus-Bammel & Gene Bammel](#)
 - Need access

2012

- [Building Capacity for Early Childhood Education with Diverse Audiences:](#)
- [Growing Up WILD Evaluation](#)
- [the spider files: firsthand experience with spiders debunks students' misconceptions](#)
- [Partnerships Gone WILD: Preparing Teachers of Young Children to Teach about the Natural World](#)
- [The living world in the curriculum: ecology, an essential part of biology learning](#)
 - Need access

2010

- [Environmental Education & Ecology in a Life Science Course for Pre-service K-8 Teachers Using Project Wildlife in Learning Design by Allan Nelson, The American Biology Teacher, March 2010, pg's 156-160](#)
 - Abstract: During laboratory sessions devoted to ecology, 182 pre-service K-8 teachers participated in a Project Wildlife in Learning Design (WILD) workshop. Participants rated the workshop highly, indicated they would use more inquiry-based activities, and were more interested in teaching ecology following the workshop. Post-test scores indicated an increased content knowledge of ecology.
- [EE Teacher Inservice Education: The Need for New Perspectives](#)
 - Access must be purchased or need an account
- [Do Our Kids Have Nature-Deficit Disorder? By, Richard Louv](#)
- [Environmental Education & Ecology in a Life Science Course for Preservice K—8 Teachers Using Project Wildlife in Learning Design](#)
 - Jstor account needed

- [The Impact of an Environmental Education Program on Knowledge and Attitude James B. Armstrong & James C. Impara](#)
 - Need access
- [What Research Says to the Educator Part Two: Environmental Education and the Affective Domain Louis A. Iozzi](#)
 - Need access
- [The Thessaloniki Declaration: A Wake-Up Call for Environmental Education? Doug Knapp](#)
 - Need access
- [The Inclusion of Environmental Education in Science Teacher Education pp 173-189 -- Summer Methods in Summer Camps: Teaching Projects WILD, WET, and Learning Tree at an Outdoor Environmental Education Center](#)
 - Need access
- [Having a Field Day with Environmental Education Kristin R. Bennett & Tina L. Heafner](#)
 - Need access
- [Games in Instruction Leading to Environmentally Responsible Behavior Patricia Hewitt](#)
 - Need access
- [Conversations With Environmental Educators: A Conversation With Four Classroom Teachers Trudi L. Volk](#)
 - Need access
- [Approaches to Environmental Education](#)
 - Need access
- [Traveling Boxes: A New Tool for Environmental Education](#)
 - Need access
- [A Window into the Wild](#)
- [Environmental Education Within Early Childhood](#)
 - Purchase required

2009

- [The Status of Environmental Education in Iowa Schools: A Survey of Barriers and Needs as Perceived by Teachers from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Education Program](#)
- [The effects of outdoor science lessons with elementary school students on preservice teachers' self-efficacy](#)
- [Keeping It Real Olson, Joanne K; Clough, Michael P. Science and Children; Washington Vol. 46, Iss. 8, \(Apr/May 2009\): 53-55.](#)
 - Access needed past preview
- [Student-Centered Learning in an Earth Science, Preservice, Teacher-Education Course Margaret Avar Journal of College Science Teaching Vol. 38, No. 6 \(July/August 2009\), pp. 24-29](#)
 - Need access
- [Making Natural Connections](#)
- [Resources for Science in the Early Years Ashbrook, Peggy. YC Young Children; Washington Vol. 64, Iss. 6, \(Nov 2009\): 68-69.](#)

- Need access

2008

- [Partnerships Gone WILD: Preparing Teachers of Young Children to Teach About the Natural World by Courtney Crim, Blanche Desjean-Perrotta, and Christine Moseley](#)

2007

- [ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SAVES THE DAY](#)
 - Need access

2006

- [Students Make Natural Connections through the Integration of Social Studies and Science by Susan Pass and Christine Moseley](#)
- [Project Learning Tree Teacher Assessment Survey Janice Easton & Martha C. Monroe](#)
 - Need access

2005

- [A Study of the Effectiveness of Environmental Education Curricula in Promoting Middle School Students' Critical Thinking Skills by Theresa Robinson](#)
- [Enhancing natural resource programs with field trips](#)

2003

- [Effectiveness of Project WILD Classroom Instruction at the Middle School Level in South Dakota by Maria Swain Kearns](#)
- [The effect of teaching outdoor environmental education on elementary preservice teachers' self-efficacy](#)
 - Must be purchased
- [The Benefits of for Outdoor Learning Centers for Young Gifted Learners](#)
 - Need access
- [An Evaluation of the Wilderness and Land Ethic Curriculum and Teacher Workshops](#)

2002

- [Project WILD Educator Survey: Instrument Development and Pilot Study Findings by Joe Heimlich, Ph.D.](#)
- [Brune, Jeff. Science and Children; Washington Vol. 39, Iss. 7, \(Apr 2002\): 29-33.](#)
 - Need access

2001

- [Survey on the Usefulness of Project WILD by Luba Mycio-Mommers](#)

- [Project WILD Evaluation: Learner Knowledge and Attitude Gains by Joe E. Heimlich, Ph.D.; Diane Cantrell, PH.D.; Hongxia Duan, MS](#)
- [Connecting students with special needs to the environment](#)

2000

- [Project WILD Evaluation Impact Studies I and II: Findings from Questionnaires, Observations, and Interviews Prepared by Randi Korn & Associates, Inc.](#)
- [Environmental Education in the United States: A Survey of Preservice Teacher Education Programs by Rosalyn McKeown-Ice](#)

1999

- [Outdoor Pedagogy](#)

1998

- [Nevada Division of Wildlife Project WILD Survey: Summary of Results by Grace M. Woo, Ph.D.](#)
- [PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ELEMENTARY TEACHERS: A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT INVOLVING A UNIVERSITY, A FOREST LEARNING CENTER, INDUSTRY, AND STATE AGENCIES M. Faye Neathery , Justine Glynn , Katherine Long](#)

1997

- [The Schoolyard Habitat Movement: What It Is and Why Children Need It](#)

1996

- [Effects of the Implementation of Selected Activities from Project WILD on Fifth-grade Children's Knowledge about, and Attitudes and Behaviors toward Wildlife and the Environment in Taiwan by Hsiao-Peng Hua. B.S., M.A.](#)
- [Measuring the Effectiveness of an Experiential Learning Approach: A Case Study Using Project WILD by Kristin Shari](#)
- [Utah Project WILD Needs Analysis by Bruce S. Thompson and Pamela K. Thompson](#)
- [School Yard Environmental Projects: A Planning Primer.](#)

1995

- [Measuring the Effectiveness of Experiential Learning Approach: A Case Study Using Project WILD Kristin S. Cargill](#)

1994

- [A Critical Evaluation of Training Workshops for Facilitators of Project WILD Workshops in New Hampshire for Instructing Practitioners Using These Materials by Jane Jackson](#)

1993

- [West Virginia Project WILD Survey of Use by Art Shomo](#)
- [An Assessment of an Aquatic Resources Education Program by Daniel Shaw](#)
- [Project WILD Aquatic \(K-6 Aquatic Education Program\) Research Summary by Barbara D. Gigar](#)
- [New opportunities for ecology education in the United States AR Berkowitz pages 45-48](#)
- [Environmental Education: Some Global and Local Perspectives Marylin Lisowski, Robert Williams](#)
 - Need access
- [The Inclusion of Environmental Education in Science Teacher Education Pages 35-36](#)
- [Environmental Education: Bringing Children and Nature Together By Estes, Yvonne Baron](#)
 - Need access

1992

- [Environmental Education Survey for Project WET/WILD: Results of Teacher and Student Responses in the State of North Dakota Bureau of Educational Services and Applied Research](#)
- [Evaluation of Project WILD Delivery Activities in Colorado by Steven J. Bissell](#)
- [An Evaluation of Volunteerism in Project Learning Tree and Project WILD in Texas by Janice Schnake Greene](#)
- [Evaluation of Project WILD: The State of Washington 1984-1992 by Margaret Tudor, Ph.D.](#)
- [A Preliminary Survey Use of Project WILD/Aquatic WILD by Urban Teachers by Miriam L. Dunne](#)

1991

- [A Study of Project WILD's Impact on the Students of Exemplary Teachers by Lynette Fleming, Ph.D.](#)
- [Characteristics and Motives of Volunteer Facilitators of Project WILD in Ohio by Barbara Scott Goman](#)
- [Project WILD: Report Addendum -- Usage and Workshop Length; Aquatic Guide by Standag Accureach](#)

1990

- [Results of the Project WILD Survey -- 1990 North Carolina](#)
- [An Evaluation of Project WILD's Effect on Student Knowledge and Attitude Toward Wildlife in Colorado by Therese M. Race](#)
- [Summary: Arizona Project WILD 1990 -- Survey of Use](#)
- [User and Non-user Assessment Study of Project WILD Materials by Standage Accureach, Inc.](#)

1989

- [A Study of Environmental Education: Attitudes and Practices Among Teachers at the Secondary Level by Margo Farnsworth](#)
- [Effect of Project WILD on Fourth Grade Students in Wisconsin by Susan Gilchrist](#)

- [The Impact of Project WILD on Fourth Grade Students by Susan Gilchrist](#)
- [Effective Environmental Education in Action: A Model for Success](#)
 - Need access

1988

- [An Assessment of the Use and Effectiveness of Project WILD \(Wildlife in Learning Design\) by Teachers and Youth Leaders in Oklahoma by Cynthia Leann Smith](#)
- [Evaluation of Teacher Use of Project WILD by Dorothea A. Zosel](#)

1987

- [Environmental Education and its Effect on Students' Attitudes Toward the Curriculum by Denece Gleed Schwartz](#)
- [A Case Study Analysis of Curriculum Implementation as Exemplified by Project WILD in One Midwestern State by Diane C. Cantrell](#)

1986

- [Project WILD Survey of Use and Needs by Cheryl Charles, Ph.D.](#)
- [A Statewide Survey of Project WILD in Ohio: Final Report by Diane C. Cantrell](#)

1985

- [Evaluation Report of the 1985 Implementation of Project WILD in the Elementary Schools of Lee County, Florida by M. Lynette Fleming](#)
- [Montana Project WILD Survey Results by Vince Yannone](#)

1983

- [Project WILD Evaluation: Final Report of Field Test by M. Lynette Fleming](#)
- [ERIC Number: EJ328619 Record Type: Journal Publication Date: 1985 Pages: N/A Abstractor: N/A Reference Count: N/A ISBN: N/A ISSN: N/A Do Something WILD! Learning about Wildlife with Project WILD. Thompson, Craig D. Outdoor Communicator, v16 n1 p46-47 Spr-Sum 1985](#)