

**LINCK**  
Long Island Nature Collaborative for Kids  
*A project of*  
The  
**Early Years**  
institute®

**Educator Training Workshop:  
Connecting Children With Nature**

**Saturday April 10**  
**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

***A Workshop for K-5 Teachers  
At Seatuck Environmental Center, Islip***

***Fee: \$45 per person***



**R**esearch has found that today's children are increasingly disconnected from nature.

Teachers and parents have expressed concerns about the stressful, overscheduled lives of children as well as their preoccupation with TV and video games. This alienation from the natural world is leading to increases in problems such as obesity, children's dislike and even fear of the outdoors, and increased reliance on behavior-regulating medications.

The Arbor Day Foundation and Dimensions Educational Research Foundation are working in collaboration to support the creation of effective outdoor learning environments that make nature a part of children's everyday lives. LINCK, the Long Island Nature Collaborative for Kids, has been designated by these organizations as a national demonstration site for connecting children and nature.

Please call **(516) 304-5480** or e-mail LINCK Director Hillary Olson at [holson@eyi.org](mailto:holson@eyi.org) to let us know of your interest in attending. Additional information about the workshops and instructors is attached.

LINCK is working to connect children with nature by training directors, teachers and educators in the many ways that they can work with children's innate curiosity to learn about and explore the natural world.

***This course meets the following New York Education Standards:***

**ELA: 1, 4**

**Health and P.E.: 1, 2, 3**

**Math, Science and Technology: 1, 4, 6**

**Social Studies: 3**

***Check with your district Superintendent about training credit hours for this course.***

***A continental breakfast will be served.***

## Did you Know?

- Children who play regularly in natural environments show more advanced motor fitness, including coordination, balance and agility, and they are sick less often.
- When children play in natural environments, their play is more diverse with imaginative and creative play that fosters language and collaborative skills.
- Exposure to natural environments improves children's cognitive development by improving their awareness, reasoning and observational skills.
- Play in a diverse natural environment reduces or eliminates bullying.
- Nature helps children develop powers of observation and creativity and instills a sense of peace and being at one with the world.
- Early experiences with the natural world have been positively linked with the development of imagination and the sense of wonder. Wonder is an important motivator for life-long learning.
- Children who play in nature have more positive feelings about each other.
- Natural environments stimulate social interaction between children.
- Outdoor environments are important to children's development of independence and autonomy.
- Play in outdoor environments stimulates all aspects of children development more readily than indoor environments.
- Children with symptoms of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) are better able to concentrate after contact with nature.



*This workshop is designed to give educators and decision makers concrete and easy to implement ideas, best practices, and strategies for integrating contact with the natural world into your daily, weekly and seasonal curriculum.*

### Directions to Seatuck Environmental Center

1. Take Long Island Expressway (I-495) to Exit 56 (Rte. 111/Islip/Smithtown) or Take Sunrise Highway (Rte. 27) to Exit 45 (Rte. 111/Islip/Smithtown)
2. Follow signs to Rte. 111 South (Islip)
3. Rte. 111 ends at Main St. (Rte. 27A)
4. Turn RIGHT onto Main St. (Rte. 27A)
5. Turn LEFT at first traffic light onto South Bay Ave.
6. The entrance to Seatuck is on the RIGHT, one mile south of Main Street (550 South Bay Ave., Islip)
7. Park in the main parking lot on your left.

### Instructors

**Hillary Olson**, Director of the Long Island Nature Collaborative for Kids (LINCK), is a respected non-profit leader with over 14 years experience in informal education in museums, science centers and elementary schools. Hillary holds a B.S. in Earth and Space Sciences from Stony Brook University and an MEd in Museum Leadership from Bank Street College of Education. Through her work at LINCK, Hillary trains teachers, parents and early childhood educators to connect children with nature and helps to create outdoor classrooms throughout Long Island.

**Peter Walsh** is the Education Director of Seatuck Environmental Association, a not for profit that works to conserve Long Island's wildlife through education, research and policy work. Seatuck provides nature-based programs for all ages at its nature center in Islip, and at schools and libraries and parks all over Long Island. Peter conducts lectures for public and private groups, designs teacher trainings for outdoor learning, writes corresponding curriculum and is instrumental in the design and implementation of outdoor learning environments.



## Educator Workshop Registration

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***For K-5 Teachers***

***At Seatuck Environmental Center, Islip***

### Connecting Children with Nature

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail check or money order for \$45 per person, per session made out to EARLY YEARS INSTITUTE to:**

**The Early Years Institute  
Attn: Hillary Olson  
1 Dupont Street, Suite 101  
Plainview, NY 11803**

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*For Internal use only*

**Confirmation/Directions sent:**

**Fee received on:**

**Credit hours earned:**

**Participation verified:**