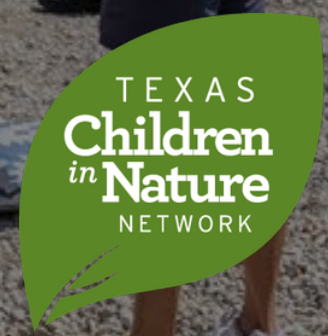


TEXAS CHILDREN IN NATURE NETWORK

ENSURING ACCESS AND
CONNECTION TO NATURE
FOR ALL CHILDREN IN
TEXAS





OUR VISION

A Texas in which children have access to the benefits of nature everywhere they live, learn and play.



OUR MISSION

To ensure access and connection to nature for ALL children in Texas.

WHY TIME OUTDOORS

- Healthier physically and mentally
- Do better in school
- Have higher self-esteem
- Have good self-discipline
- Feel more capable and confident
- Are good problem solvers
- Are more cooperative with others
- Are more creative
- Feel connected to nature
- Are tomorrow's conservation leaders



TEXAS
Children
in **Nature**
NETWORK

HISTORY

In 2009, SB 205 was introduced to address the problem of Nature Deficit Disorder. Building on that initial support, however, we were able to get a bipartisan group of legislators to sign a September 28, 2009 letter to four agencies (TPWD, DSHS, TEA and Agriculture) requesting that they form a public/private partnership for children in nature to create a strategic plan for “healthy children in a healthy world.” Out of this group, leaders from across the state in nature education gathered and formed TCiN in 2010.

On January 1, 2021, the Texas Children in Nature Network became an independent non-profit.



TCiNN Works off of the Collective Impact Model

- Common Agenda
- Mutually Reinforcing Activities
 - Resource Sharing
 - Shared Evaluation
- Continuous Communication
 - Newsletters, social media and more
- Strong backbone organization - that's US!

Policies

What laws are in place that affect our work?

Practices

How we have always done things

Resource Flows

Information
Grants
Time

Relationships and Connections

Educators
Nature Professionals
Health Professionals

Power Dynamics

Who are the decision makers?
Who is in the room?

Mental Model

Children need to spend more time in nature

SYSTEMS CHANGE



TCINN PROJECTS



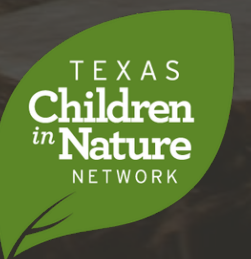
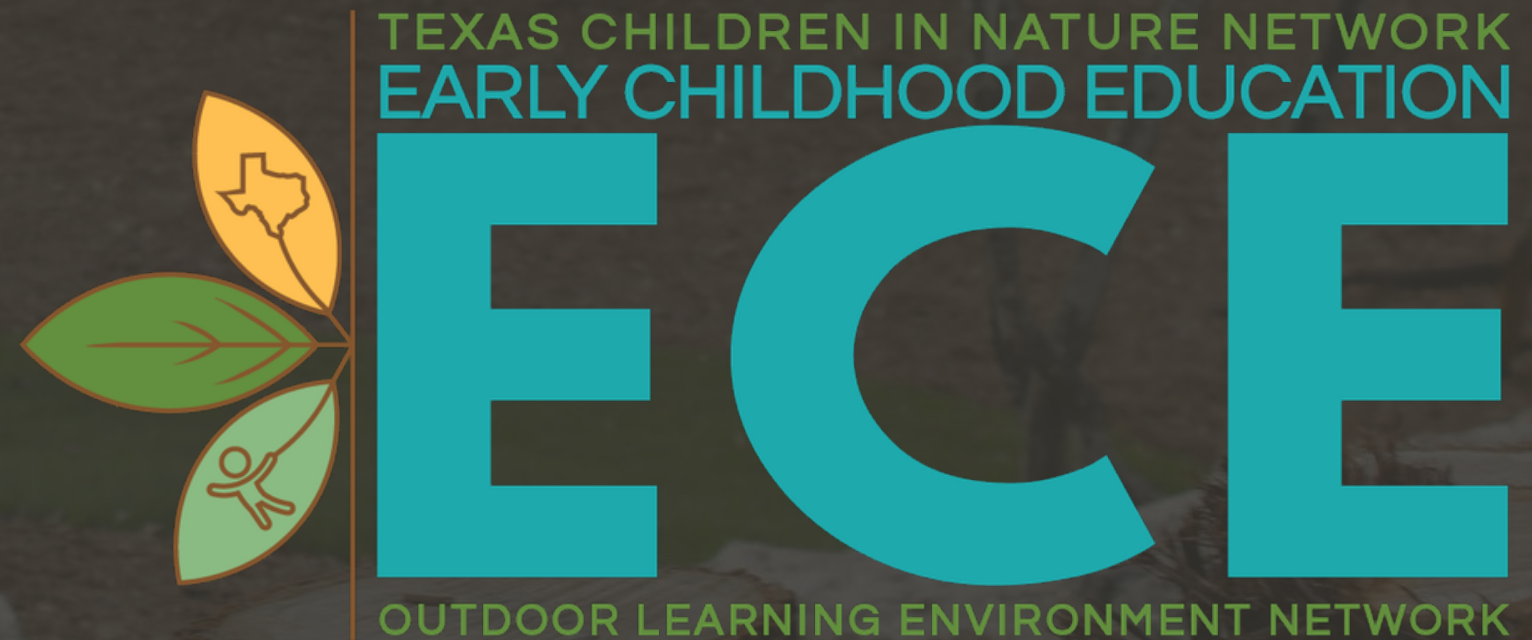
EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS IN TEXAS

Initiative to work with Early Childhood Education Centers to create Outdoor Learning Environments. Statewide initiative headed by DSHS, TCiNN serves on the state leadership committee. Based on Preventing Obesity by Design from Natural Learning Institute at NC State

In the summer of 2024 TCiNN kicked off their work with DSHS to head up a Professionals Network with Early Childhood Education Professionals working in outdoor learning.

12

[Best Practices](#)



OLE! Best Practices



- Ten or more play and learning settings
- Looping, curvy, primary pathway
- Multipurpose lawn
- Shady settings (other than trees)
- Natural, loose materials
- Designed vegetable garden
- Wheeled toys, portable play equipment and play materials
- Support of gross motor activities
- Sufficient trees
- Edible fruiting tree species
- Shrubs, vines and ornamental grasses
- Enclosed outdoor storage and classroom space

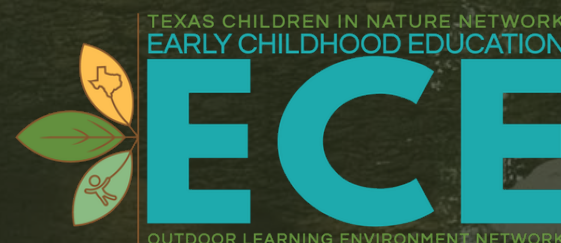
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Upcoming Projects:

Launch of new Nature Play Course

New Website

September 2026: Pathfinder Meeting in
Houston



12

Number of Pathfinders who attending
our first annual Pathfinder meeting at
the Nest School at the Cibolo Center
for Conservation

230

Pathfinders who have joined the
network in our first year

99

Centers participating in some way
with outdoor learning



TEXAS
Children
in Nature
NETWORK

NATURE SMART LIBRARIES

55

Participating Librarians in our
Nature Smart Library Cohort

35

Libraries have LEAP Backpacks

531

LEAP Backpack Checkouts in
2025

This initiative is focused on how libraries can serve as nature hubs in a community. Currently TCiNN is working with multiple library systems across the state.

Ways Libraries are working in this space:

- LEAP Packs
- Story Walks
- Nature Programming
- Currated Book Lists
- Improving Greenspace at Libraries



GREEN SCHOOLYARDS

Initiative to work with schools across the state to create outdoor learning, play, and exploration spaces on school grounds. Spaces can include everything from gardens to nature play to outdoor classrooms. As an organization, we place a high importance on these spaces, including incorporating many natural elements, such as extensive use of native plants, green stormwater infrastructure, and diminished use of hardscaping.

Just launched our Green Schoolyards Cohort.

Coming soon: our Green Schoolyards Quickstart Guide



WEBINARS

We offer webinars and teacher workshops each month to share resources with our partners.

All our webinars are also shared on our YouTube Channel

Some upcoming webinars include:

- June 28: Leaves, Logs and Literacy: Choosing Books for Nature Exploration
- July 9: Our Open Spaces - Central Texas Interfaith Explores Green Space Equity
- July 16: Nature -based Solutions for Youth Physical Activity in Our Warming World

2026 TEXAS CHILDREN IN NATURE NETWORK SUMMIT

San Antonio

December 9-11, 2026



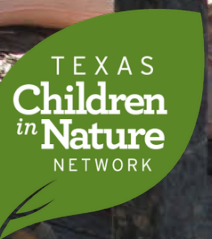
TEXAS
Children
in Nature
NETWORK

MEMBERSHIP

Individual and Organizational
Memberships Available

Benefits

- FREE Registration for Webinars
- Discounts on In -Person Workshops
- Discounted Summit Registration
- Member Newsletter
- Family Activity Eblast
- Member Directory
- Early Access to Webinar Recordings
- Technical Assistance



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Join A Regional Collaborative

Volunteer

Become a Member





Follow Us on
Social Media



[@Texaschildreninnature](#)



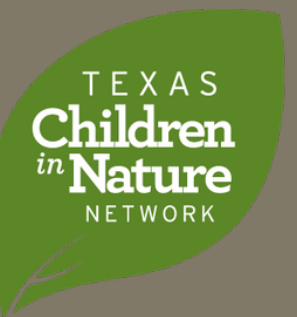
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[Texas Children in Nature](#)



A young girl with dark skin and hair is smiling and looking towards the camera. She is holding a small, white, fluffy bird in her hands. The background is a light-colored, textured surface, possibly sand or gravel.

THANK YOU.

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