

How to create an outdoor prepared environment

- ✓ Teacher Spiritual Preparedness: reflect on philosophy and personal beliefs.
- ✓ Walk around your school community
- ✓ Observe where and how the children work and play outdoors in various learning spaces within walking distance to your classroom
- ✓ Choose an outdoor space within walking distance, identify and/or address:
 - ✓ Potential safety hazards
 - ✓ natural materials (make use of the resources available trees, rocks, leaves, green spaces, gardens, fields, and plants)
 - ✓ clear boundaries
 - ✓ reference checklist for selecting an outdoor learning space on the Montessori
- ✓ Prepare justification for learning outdoors: access editable forms from the Montessori Outside resources page highlighting the benefits of outdoor learning and describe how the outdoor prepared environment enhances learning to accommodate the needs of all learners, meets curriculum goals, and enriches Montessori curriculum in nature.
- ✓ Collaborate and share ideas with colleagues
- ✓ Seek approval from administrators: access editable reference sheets from the Montessori Outside resources page highlighting key speaking points
- ✓ Apply for funding grants: access information on how to apply for funding from the Montessori Outside Blog: Funding
- ✓ Physical Environment Preparation:
 - establish maintenance of the area (Practical Life)

- prepare materials: access information from the Montessori Outside Blog: The Learning Wagon
- establish communal structure discuss how to use space with colleagues (how and when)
- ✓ Prepare letters and forms to be sent home to families: access editable letters and forms from the Montessori Outside resources page.
- ✓ Send home information letters to families
- ✓ Begin outdoor learning experiences. It is suggested to start with extension activities and work towards a three-hour work-period: access to extension and activities can be found on the Montessori Outside Blog pages and resources page.
- ✓ Set learning expectations with and establish safety guidelines students
- ✓ Document learning experiences (photos, tracking activities, child reflections, personal teacher reflections)
- ✓ Host a families and administrator evening for to show the value of outdoor learning and the learning experiences explored
- ✓ Continued teacher preparation: revisit www.montessoriooutside.com for updated information, resources, professional develop opportunities and recent research