

Professional Development

Outdoor learning workshops for educators



EVERGREEN

30+ years Reconnecting children to nature

Since 1991, Evergreen has supported schools and childcare centres across Canada in transforming their grounds into nature-rich play and learning environments for both children and their communities.

As **Canada's leader in school ground greening**, our range of services include:

- Landscape design
- School board guidelines and procurement standards
- Publishing guides, research, case studies and lesson plans
- Advocacy, fundraising and grant giving

In 2007, Evergreen began offering professional development services to compliment this work and has since delivered workshops to more than 50,000 educators and childcare staff.

The goal of these workshops is to build capacity and confidence to create rich outdoor play and learning experiences for children and youth in any space or season.

Join us on our journey to build lasting change and forge a Canadian movement to reconnect children to nature!

“Evergreen has been a great partner to help support with expertise. They have been collaborative, great communicators, and great supporters in the learning needs for our school community.”

– Cheryl Hayles, Principal, Irma Coulson Public School

6000+
school grounds
transformed

50,000+
educators
trained

1.3 million+
children
impacted

20+ publications
created

Evergreen's Professional Development Workshops

Today, children spend more time playing on screens than exploring the world around them—leaving nature on the fringes of their lives. It's time for change!

We offer a wide range of core and customizable workshops that enhance outdoor learning opportunities and foster children's health and wellbeing.

About our workshops

Regular outdoor learning enhances kids' physical and mental health, increases their resiliency, and nurtures their social and problem solving skills. Yet in many childcare and education settings, it is still treated like an afterthought.

Designed to be highly interactive and engaging, participants of our workshops will experience the value that outdoor play and learning can bring to all forms of teaching and caregiving models. Even better, these workshops will provide you with easy-to-implement approaches regardless of your access to nature or greenspace. These play and inquiry-based activities can work in any space or season.

Workshop options

Core
Workshops

Custom
Workshops

Indigenous
Land
Connections

Nature Play
& Learning
Lab

Virtual
Workshops



Core Workshops



Evergreen's Core Workshops are designed to provide in-depth learning and practical insights into a key area of outdoor play and learning.

Each workshop has been carefully crafted to empower participants with the knowledge and skills needed to create rich outdoor play and learning experiences in any space or season.

Plus, benefit from an associated post-workshop resource package tailored to your area of focus, providing ongoing support for your educational journey. **Choose one of the following Core Workshops.**

1. Nature Connection Principles & Practices

Explore the fundamentals of nature connection. Learn principles and practices to enhance your relationship with the natural world and develop strategies for incorporating these into daily routines.

2. Activating Outdoor Learning in All Spaces

Unleash creativity and discover new possibilities for nature-connected play and learning in any space. Learn cost-effective design strategies that welcome in nature and make the most of your existing outdoor spaces.

3. Supporting Outdoor Learning in All Seasons

Equip yourself with the knowledge and tools to embrace outdoor learning in any weather. Learn the importance of year-round outdoor education and practical strategies to adapt activities in all seasons.



Everything has been amazing knowledge building and so powerful for me as an educator as well as a parent." — **Teacher, TDSB**

Duration: 3 hours

Location: In-person at your location or Evergreen Brick Works.

Cost: Starting at \$4,000+HST for up to 25 participants.

Rates increase with additional participants. Transportation fees apply for workshops held outside Evergreen Brick Works.

Core Workshops — What to Expect

Introduction & Icebreakers (15 min)

Start the session with energy and connection. Meet the Evergreen team, build rapport among participants, foster collaboration, and create a welcoming space for open learning.

Overview of Key Principles & Approaches at Evergreen (15 min)

Ground the workshop in the values and practices that guide our work at Evergreen. Build a shared foundation for the day's learning and connect with our mission and methods.

Core Learning Module (60 min)

Dive deep into a focused area of learning. Expert insights, interactive discussions, and actionable strategies that explore a key area of outdoor learning.

Experiential Activity Rotations (60 min)

Engage in hands-on learning through tried-and-tested activities. Experience practical activities to spark inspiration and gain tools to immediately apply in your own context. Activities vary depending on area of focus.

Q&A (15 min)

Space for reflection and clarification. Address specific challenges or explore ideas in greater depth with support from facilitators.

Closing Circle & Gratitude (15 min)

End the workshop on a meaningful note. Foster community, celebrate learning, and leave feeling inspired to bring learning into your own practice.

Post-Workshop Resources

Ensure continued impact beyond the workshop. Receive resources, such as activity guides, reflective tools, and follow-up strategies, to help implement learning in your own setting.

Custom Workshops



Looking for a more personalized learning experience?

Custom Workshops are tailored sessions that blend content from across our key areas of focus to meet your team wherever you are on your outdoor learning journey!

Learn new ideas, connect with peers, reflect on existing challenges, and leave with activities and approaches that can be implemented right away.

Whether it is the first step or the next step on your outdoor learning journey, we cater the workshop to your team's needs through a **1-hour consultation** to understand learning goals and objectives.

Post-workshop, get a **custom resource package designed to help put new ideas into action. Personalized learning, direct impact.**

1-hour virtual consultation to understand your goals & blend content from the following areas of focus

**Nature Connection
& Land-Based
Learning**

**Supporting
Outdoor Learning in
All Seasons**

**Loose Parts &
Outdoor Spaces**

**Risk Management
& Risky Play**

Duration: 3 hours (Half day) or 6 hours (Full day)

Location: In-person at your location or Evergreen Brick Works.

Cost: Starting at \$5,600+HST for Half-day, and \$8,000+HST for Full-day for up to 25 participants.

Rates increase with additional participants. Transportation fees apply for workshops held outside Evergreen Brick Works.

Custom Workshops — What to Expect

Introduction & Icebreakers (15 min)

Start the session with energy and connection. Meet the Evergreen team, build rapport among participants, foster collaboration, and create a welcoming space for open learning.

Overview of Key Principles & Approaches at Evergreen (15 min)

Ground the workshop in the values and practices that guide our work at Evergreen. Build a shared foundation for the day's learning and connect with our mission and methods.

Custom Learning Module (60 min)

In-depth learning tailored for your team. Expert insights, interactive discussions, and actionable strategies that blend focus areas to meet your unique needs.

Experiential Activity Rotations (60 min)

Experience hands-on activities curated for your team. Sample adaptable, nature-connected activities aligned with your chosen areas of focus, offering practical tools and inspiration for immediate use.

Q&A (15 min)

Space for reflection and clarification. Participants can address specific challenges or explore ideas in greater depth with support from facilitators.

Closing Circle & Gratitude (15 min)

End the workshop on a meaningful note. Foster community, celebrate learning, and leave feeling inspired to bring learning into your own practice.

Post-Workshop Resources

Ensure continued impact beyond the workshop. Participants receive a tailored set of resources, such as activity guides, reflective tools, and follow-up strategies, to help them implement what they've learned in their own settings.

Indigenous Land Connections



Explore land-based learning with an emphasis on inquiry-based approaches that honour Indigenous Ways of Knowing.

Guided by Indigenous Seasonal Teachings, participants will learn strategies to support learners in connecting to the land in all seasons and spaces. As the seasons shift, so too can our activities, drawing inspiration from the changing landscape and exploring the many ways nature can heal and nourish our minds and bodies.

Tailor your experience by **choosing two of the following three sessions:**

1. Walk the Land

- **Guided hike** focused on fundamentals of land-based learning
- Deepen connection with the land through walking and exploration
- Observe seasonal changes and reflect on our relationships with land and learning

2. Work the Land

- Explore **Indigenous land stewardship** and urban agriculture practices
- Hands-on experience caring for a traditional Indigenous garden (*Gitigaan*)
- Learn traditional planting, harvesting, and care techniques

3. Learn with the Land

- Gather in the **Strawberry Heart Lodge** (*Ode'imniwiigamig*) with a Fire Keeper
- Engage with cultural teachings and protocols
- Reflect on ways to meaningfully incorporate Indigenous Ways of Knowing into educational and professional settings

Duration: 3.5 hours

Location: In-person at Evergreen Brick Works only.

Cost: Starting at \$4,000+HST for up to 25 participants.

Rates increase with additional participants.



This workshop takes a **mentorship approach**, encouraging participants to come prepared with questions, an open heart, and an open mind. Reciprocity is important—fostering a shared learning experience rooted in mutual respect and engagement.

Ideal for educators, community leaders, and professionals seeking to:

- Deepen their understanding of **Indigenous Ways of Knowing**.
- Develop strategies for meaningful **land-based learning**.
- Build stronger connections with the land in **all seasons and spaces**.

“

I have been profoundly moved by today. It was truly humbling to be invited into this space and to engage (and be welcomed) into today’s activities. A life changing experience.”

— Teacher, R.H. McGregor Public School

Indigenous Land Connections — What to Expect

Opening Circle (30 min)

Begin in a Good Way. Establish protocols and set intentions for our shared experience. Smudging and a welcome address help establish a sense of respect, connection, and mindfulness as we embark on the learning journey together.

Session 1 (70 min)

Deepen connection to the land. Whether walking, working, or learning with the land, this session encourages experiential, inquiry-based exploration that supports Indigenous Ways of Knowing and connection to place.

Break (10 min)

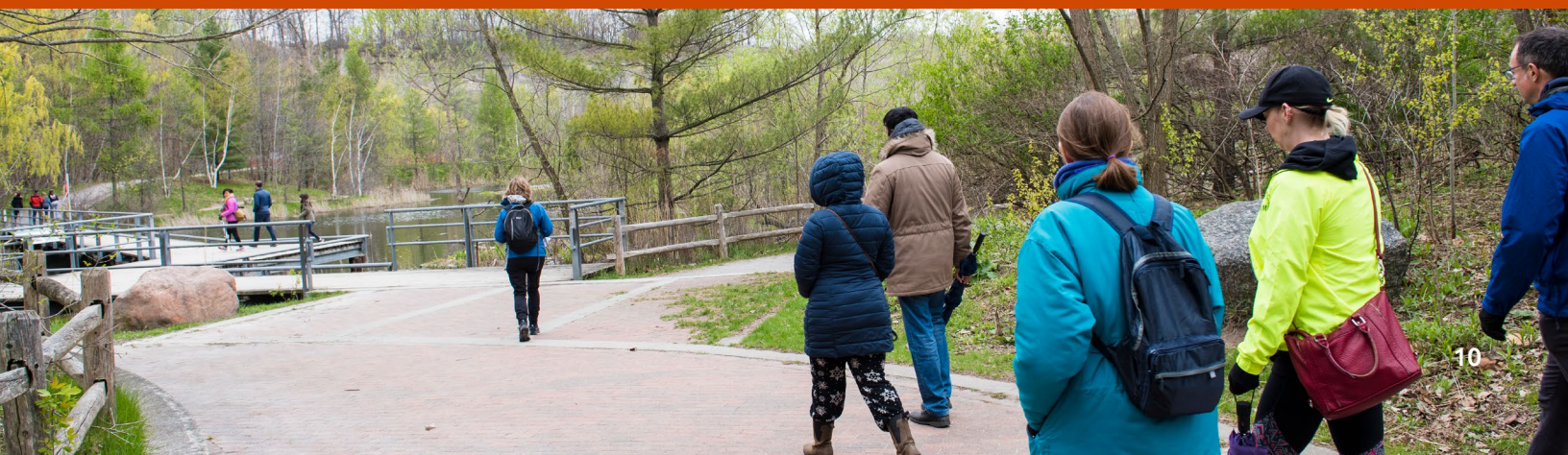
Take a breath. Recharge, reflect, and prepare for the next session with renewed focus and energy.

Session 2 (70 min)

Explore from another perspective. Build on insights from the first session, and continue your journey. This opportunity enriches understanding and offers a holistic view of land-based learning.

Closing Circle & Gratitude (30 min)

Bring learning full circle. Come together to share reflections, express gratitude, and ask final questions. Foster a sense of closure and commitment to carrying learning forward.



Nature Play & Learning Lab



Looking for a quick, practical introduction to outdoor play and learning?

Experience nature connection in action with Evergreen's Nature Play & Learning Lab!

This dynamic **2-hour applied session** immerses participants in the fundamentals of outdoor learning and nature connection. Sharpen your ability to notice seasonal changes and discover tools and approaches that deepen connections between the land and learning.

Experience a **guided hike** at Evergreen Brick Works and a sampling of adaptable, **seasonally inspired activities** that can bring nature-connected play and learning to all ages and spaces.



GUIDED HIKE
at
Evergreen Brick Works

SEASONAL ACTIVITIES
for all
spaces & ages

Duration: 2 hours

Location: In-person at Evergreen Brick Works only.

Cost: Starting at \$95+HST per person. Minimum 10 participants per booking.

We encourage multiple visits throughout the year to experience different seasons, creating opportunities for ongoing mentorship with our team of outdoor educators. Inquire about discounts when booking multiple sessions within the same year.

Nature Play & Learning Lab - What to Expect

Introduction & Icebreakers (10 min)

Start the session with energy and connection. Meet the Evergreen team, build rapport among participants, foster collaboration, and create a welcoming space for open learning.

Guided Hike (45 min)

Step outside and let the land inspire you. Walk the land to find inspiration in the season, fostering deeper connections between the natural world and the classroom.

Seasonal Activities (45 min)

Seasonal activities you can take anywhere. Sample seasonal-inspired activities that can easily be adapted to different age groups and learning environments. The focus is on practical implementation and flexibility.

Q&A (10 min)

Space for reflection and clarification. Address specific challenges or explore ideas in greater depth with support from facilitators.

Closing Circle & Gratitude (10 min)

End the workshop on a meaningful note. Foster community, celebrate learning, and leave feeling inspired to bring learning into your own practice.





Virtual Workshops



Interested in a workshop but can't meet in person? No problem.

Our core or custom workshops can be adapted for a shorter, virtual session, allowing your team to engage with our expert facilitators from anywhere. **Please note, Indigenous Land Connections and Nature Play and Learning Labs cannot be done virtually.**

CORE WORKSHOPS

1. **Nature Connection Principles & Practices**
2. **Activating Outdoor Learning in All Spaces**
3. **Supporting Outdoor Learning in All Seasons**

CUSTOM WORKSHOPS

1-hour virtual consultation to understand your goals & blend content from the following areas of focus

- Nature Connection & Land-Based Learning
- Supporting Outdoor Learning in All Seasons
- Loose Parts & Outdoor Spaces
- Risk Management & Risky Play



Highly informative and inspiring.” — **Early Childhood Educator, City of Toronto**

Duration: 2 hours

Location: Virtual

Cost: Starting at \$2,800+HST for Core Workshops, and \$4,000+HST for Custom Workshops for up to 50 participants.

Rates increase with additional participants.

Virtual Workshops - What to Expect

Introduction & Icebreakers (10 min)

Start the session with energy and connection. Meet the Evergreen team, build rapport among participants, foster collaboration, and create a welcoming space for open learning.

Overview of Key Principles & Approaches at Evergreen (15 min)

Ground the workshop in the values and practices that guide our work at Evergreen. Build a shared foundation for the day's learning and connect with our mission and methods.

Learning Module (75 min)

Gain foundational insights tailored to your selected focus area(s). Collaborate, reflect, and strategize in smaller interactive breakout groups to encourage active participation and application.

Q&A (10 min)

Space for reflection and clarification. Address specific challenges or explore ideas in greater depth with support from facilitators.

Closing Circle & Gratitude (10 min)

End the workshop on a meaningful note. Foster community, celebrate learning, and leave feeling inspired to bring learning into your own practice.

Post-Workshop Resources

Ensure continued impact beyond the workshop. Receive resources, such as activity guides, reflective tools, and follow-up strategies, to help implement learning in your own setting.

At a Glance

Evergreen's Professional Development Workshops

Every team is unique—our workshops are too. Compare our offerings below to see what works best for your goals.

	Core Workshop	Custom Workshop	Indigenous Land Connections	Nature Play & Learning Lab	Virtual Workshop
Duration	3 hrs	Half-Day (3 hrs) Full-Day (6 hrs)	3.5 hrs	2 hrs	2 hrs
Base Price	\$4,000+HST	Half-Day \$5,600+HST Full-Day \$8,000+HST	\$4,000+HST	\$95+HST per person. Minimum 10 participants.	Core \$2,800+HST Custom \$4,000+HST
Format	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person	Virtual
Location	Evergreen Brick Works or Offsite	Evergreen Brick Works or Offsite	Evergreen Brick Works	Evergreen Brick Works	Virtual
Client Consultation	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes, Custom Workshops only.
Guided Hike	Optional add-on at Evergreen Brick Works	Optional add-on at Evergreen Brick Works	Optional	Yes	No
Experiential Activity Rotation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Q&A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Post-Workshop Resources	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes

Still not sure which option is right for you? Email us at pdworkshops@evergreen.ca, and we'd be happy to help guide you!

Let's get started

We're excited to help you create a meaningful and memorable learning experience.

To begin, complete an intake form at evergreen.ca, and we will reach out to schedule an introductory chat. This is a chance for us to get to know your team, explore your goals, and help design the ideal workshop for your team.

Have questions or need extra guidance? We're here to help—email us anytime at pdworkshops@evergreen.ca, and we'll be happy to connect!



Our teachers came away from the workshop excited and inspired about their new found knowledge and are eager to start implementing many of the ideas into their curriculum. It was the most fun workshop we have had to date and I would say also the most inspiring to make important changes for the sake of our students.”

— Principal, Children's Garden School

Your growth. Their gift.

By attending a workshop, you support our **School Visits Bursary Program**, which gives students in the city access to nature-rich experiences at Evergreen Brick Works.



We would love to hear from you!

Office Hours

Monday to Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Contact

pdworkshops@evergreen.ca

Website

evergreen.ca

Evergreen Brick Works
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Toronto, ON M4W 3X8

Want all the best outdoor learning resources and updates?

Make sure you're signed up for our Outdoor Classroom Newsletter! It goes out every other month stuffed with great content to help you reconnect the kids in your life with nature.

[SIGN ME UP](#)



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