



Engage Parents in Bringing Children Back to Nature

Enrich Your Library Programming with *Where Do the Children Play?*

Where Do the Children Play? is a 55-minute PBS documentary promoted through the Alliance for Childhood (www.michigantelevision.org/childrenplay/). “The brainchild of Elizabeth Goodenough, the film examines the social and technological trends that conspire to rob children of their birthright: time and opportunity for unstructured, spontaneous play, especially outdoors in nature.”

Linked with its **Take Me Outside Week** from **September 20 to 26**, Recreation Nova Scotia invites libraries to sign up for public showings of *Where Do the Children Play?* across the province. The audience for the documentary is parents and other adults interested in helping to connect more children and youth with nature for all the benefits it brings (physical activity, nature awareness, stress reduction, healing and more). Up to 10 DVDs of the documentary are available (first come, first served).

Libraries that register commit to:

- Scheduling a public showing of the DVD at the library or other community venue during the month of September, leading up to or during Take Me Outside Week (September 20-26)
- Promoting the public showing and taking care of all logistics
- Having a staff or volunteer member of the library introduced the DVD, show the documentary, lead a discussion with the audience and highlight library resources that support children and nature
- An optional activity includes providing nature activities for children led by staff or volunteers while the documentary is shown to the adults

Libraries will receive:

- A free copy of the *Where Do the Children Play?* documentary DVD to keep
- Tips for scheduling public showings and how to link it to Take Me Outside Week in September
- A guide for leading a discussion about the documentary with an audience
- A resource on how to lead a nature activity session with children
- A list of books and resources to spotlight in conjunction with the DVD and Take Me Outside Week

Sharing Nature with Children and *Sharing Nature with Children II*, two books by Joseph Cornell of the Sharing Nature Foundation, could be featured by libraries in conjunction with the documentary showings and Take Me Outside Week. These two books provide activities parents and others can use to engage their kids with nature. Other child and nature books could be featured as well, such as Richard Louv's *Last Child in the Woods*.

For more information or to register for a public showing of the documentary at your library, contact Janet Barlow at wonder@senseofwonder.ca or (902) 494-7644.



Promotion of “Where Do the Children Play?” is coordinated by **Recreation Nova Scotia** in partnership with Sense of Wonder Environmental Education and the Sharing Nature Foundation. Funding partners include the IWK Community Grants and Mountain Equipment Co-op.