

the wild place

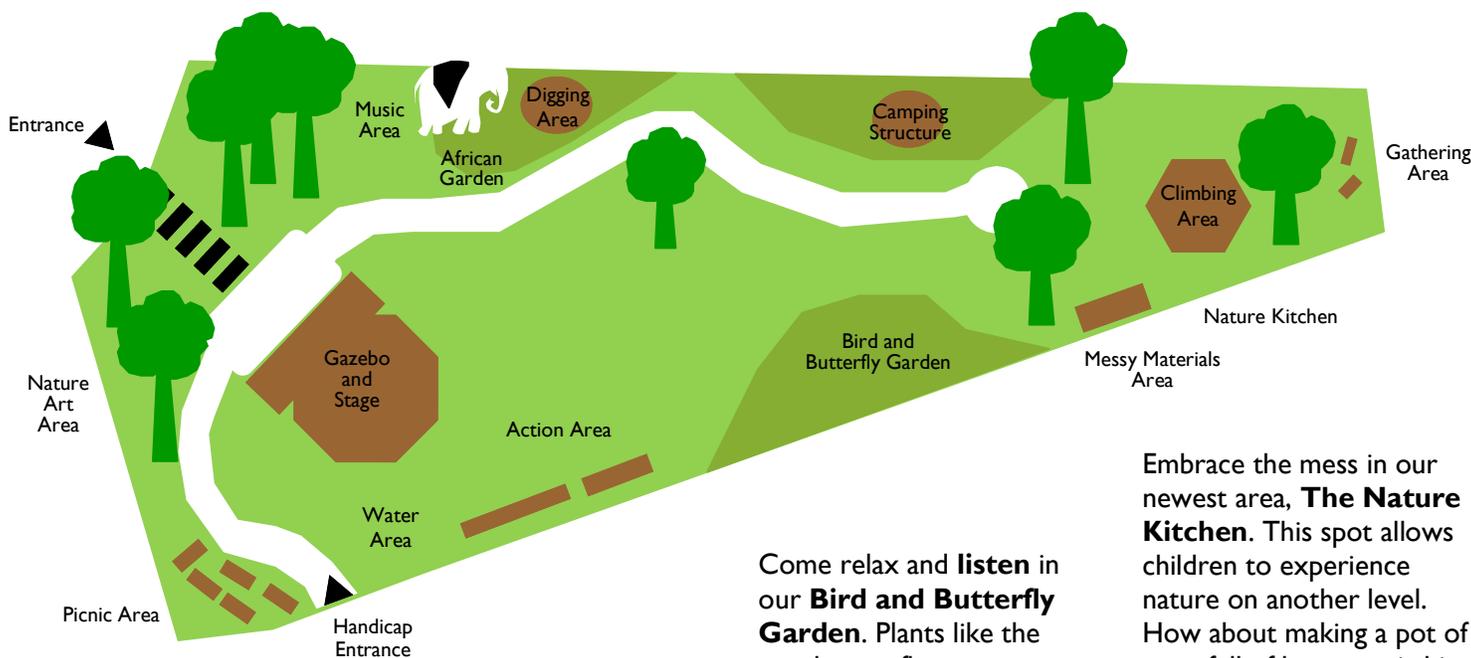
Welcome to our certified Nature Explore™ outdoor classroom! It's a dynamic, nature-based play and learning space developed through research-based, field-tested design principles. Each area within The Wild Place serves as a hands-on way children and adults can interact with and be inspired by the natural world.

The **Music Area** allows for all ages to investigate sounds and express themselves through movement. Make up a song and **perform** some snazzy dance moves as you play the various instruments.

What can you **discover** in the **Digging Area**? Pretend you are a paleontologist on a dig, carefully excavating the site for fossils. Use the small whisk broom to see what is under the mulch.

The **Climbing Area** offers a great lookout spot. Can you find Shovelshop Pond? Sometimes you'll see ducks swimming in the water!

Explore the hidden **Gathering Area**, a perfect spot for a quiet tea party with woodland creatures.



Express yourself in our **Art Area**. Use the foliage castings to make a rubbing, or stack natural items to **create** an eye-pleasing sculpture.

Challenge your skills in the **Action Area**. Make your own pathway using **balance** beams and wood cookies and pretend you are walking a plank over shark-infested waters or tip-toeing through a fairy forest.

Come relax and **listen** in our **Bird and Butterfly Garden**. Plants like the purple coneflower attract pollinating butterflies and the wisteria vine provides nesting opportunities for small birds.

Embrace the mess in our newest area, **The Nature Kitchen**. This spot allows children to experience nature on another level. How about making a pot of soup full of leaves, twig bits and acorn caps?

The **Messy Area** features lots of "loose parts" which expand the opportunities for learning; children have more choices for building, creative thinking, and problem-solving.

GET OUT! Connecting with nature is critical in nearly every aspect of a child's healthy development—intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically—and enhances educational outcomes by improving their academic performance, focus, behavior and love of learning.

nature bingo

Look high and low to find the items outside in *The Wild Place*. When you find one, be sure to cover the square. The first person to get 4 in a row wins the game! Remember, you can go across, down, or diagonally. Or, you can make up your own rules. How about the first person to complete the outside frame wins?

You can use natural objects—like pebbles or twigs—that you find in *The Wild Place* as space markers on the squares.

