

# BIOPHILIA CLASSROOM DESIGN

JaneAnn Benson

EarlyChildhoodAlly@gmail.com

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Website:

[www.EarlyChildhoodAlly.org](http://www.EarlyChildhoodAlly.org)

Instagram:

@EarlyChildhoodAlly

**“Biophilic design can reduce stress, enhance creativity and clarity of thought, improve our well-being and expedite healing; as the world population continues to urbanize, these qualities are ever more important.”**

- Terrapin Bright Green, 14 PATTERNS OF BIOPHILIC DESIGN



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What are you currently doing that supports biophilia?

What barriers do you have that may impede increasing biophilic design in your classroom? program?

Pick one area that you will work on over the next month to increase biophilia.

## **Challenge:**

In the next week go on an adult field trip specifically looking for Biophilic Design. Reflect on what you saw? How did you feel? How might you replicate some of the experience in your program?

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## Resources

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me to brainstorm, dream and plan.

### Nature Book Resources

<https://mothernatured.com/parenting/nature-books-for-kids/>

<https://runwildmychild.com/educational-nature-books/>

<https://www.naturalbeachliving.com/childrens-books-about-nature/>

<https://www.readbrightly.com/childrens-books-outside-explore/>

### Research on Nature and Children

<http://richardlouv.com/books/last-child>

<http://richardlouv.com/books/last-child/resource-guide#books>

### Resource on Biophilic Design

<https://www.terrapinbrightgreen.com/reports/14-patterns/>

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a8a259590bccee5b2320821/t/5a92240de2c483bcb2835e55/1519526935143/PBD+2017+6MB.pdf>

### Research on Biophilic Design

<http://etd.lib.metu.edu.tr/upload/12625121/index.pdf>

# BIOPHILIA CLASSROOM DESIGN

Early Childhood Ally Patterns of Biophilia

## Nature in the Space

- Windows - clear glass
- Light Table, salt lamps, lamps and/or dimmer switches, skylights
- Sensory experiences with water, sand, mud, stones
- Sounds of nature
- Grass
- Plants, gardens and flowers
- Visits to rivers, gardens
- Windows and doors that open to outside

## Natural Analogues

- Fabric and art materials with nature connections.
- Colors
- Sensory experiences
- Round spaces

## Nature of the Space

- Hiding spaces
- Balance experiences
- Lofts
- Hallways
- Living Walls

# BIOPHILIA CLASSROOM DESIGN

Low Cost Biophilia Tips

Make a list of all the things you are already doing. :)  
Ask families, community share boards and community agencies for support.

Increase the number of plants that you have. Grow some plants in your room. Ask families and teammates to bring in clippings. Many communities have Garden Clubs that are eager to engage children in gardening.

Garden in containers to begin with. Growing items such as beans, cherry tomatoes, etc.

Increase visits to community gardens, farms, creeks and nature centers. If you aren't able to go to them, many have outreach programs.

Make playlists that are easy to get to with nature sounds. Libraries have CD's available to rent.

When possible add colors that are in a soothing nature inspired color schemes when selecting fabrics, paint, rugs or materials.

Plan to add an aquarium, terrarium or fish tank. Keep it simple using free or low cost materials.

# **BIOPHILIA CLASSROOM DESIGN**

Low Cost Biophilia Tips cont.

Baskets are low to no cost through donations, Goodwill, etc. Use baskets for storing materials and/or decoration in the classroom.

Increase light interactions with children through lamps, windows, light tables. Making a homemade light table with string lights and clear boxes is one tip.

Use libraries for a variety of books and resources.

Curate YouTube and Online resources for easy access.

Request funds through grants, family/parent organizations and community agencies.

Just start.