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Kids in Nature: Book Resources

Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder, 2005. Richard Louv describes his view of an unintentional cultural situation causing our children to become separated from nature and proposes solutions.

These books are a great resource for kids and adults who care about their children's experience of and caring for wild lands everywhere.

Sharing Nature with Children I, 1978 & 1998, and Sharing Nature with Children II / Sharing the Joy of Nature with Children, 1989, Joseph Cornell. A pair of classics. Lots of simple experiences, games and activities.

A Sense of Wonder, Rachel Carson. Captures the essence of the wonder-filled world of children and stirs in us a longing for unity with the living world. Carson urges us to explore nature with feelings and emotions and to abandon the impulse to teach or explain.

The Amateur Naturalist, Gerald and Lee Durrell. A richly illustrated guide to becoming a naturalist for kids.

Beyond Ecophobia: Reclaiming the Heart in Nature Education, 2005. David Sobel supports age-appropriate environmental curriculum to prevent overwhelming young children with the weight of the world's environmental problems.

Earth Child 2000: Earth Science for Young Children: Games, Stories, Activities and Experiments, 1991 & 1994, Kathryn Sheehan and Mary Waidner, PhD, Council Oaks Books. Provides many ideas for helping your children develop empathy with nature.

EcoKids: Raising Children Who Care for the Earth, 2005, Dan Chiras. Describes how to foster love and empathy for nature, develop environmental values and put values into action. Each chapter highlights a child who is making a difference.

The Geography of Childhood: Why Children Need Wild Places. Gary Paul Nabhan and Stephen Trimble examine children's need to experience nature.

Generation Fix: Young Ideas for a Better World, Elizabeth Rusch. Tells the inspiring stories of more than 15 young people who saw a problem in their community and did something about it.

Journey to the Heart of Nature: A Guided Exploration, 1994, Joseph Cornell and Michael Deranja. This workbook of stories and guided experiences is for ages 12-to-adult.

Kids in the Wild: A Family Guide to Outdoor Recreation, 1995, Cindy Ross and Todd Gladfelter. Includes great tips on hiking, camping, backpacking, stock animal packing, cycling, canoeing and cross-country skiing with your family.

The Kids' Wildlife Book, 1994, Warner Shedd. Focuses on mammals, amphibians and birds with factual information on each species, followed by activities, games or simple craft projects that illustrate the factual information. Principles of stewardship are incorporated throughout.

This list is courtesy the Children and Nature Network of Fort Collins.