Can children learn wisdom in a forest preschool learning environment?

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Theoretical framework

This ongoing research explores whether forests can serve as а learning environment where preschool-aged children learn wisdom. Wisdom has been studied as part of adult development, and lately it has been found to be correlated with early childhood development as well. Wisdom is understood here as complex concept referring to socio-cognitive capacities. positive emotions. and ethical action. there is already evidence that Also. their even preschoolers have own understanding of wisdom.

The study explores various dimensions of wisdom appearing in children's

- daily plays
- · learning activities
- routines

in a forest preschool learning environment. This research is based on the idea of 'phrónēsis', wisdom in practice.



Research design

Data are collected by means of

- observation and video recording in a group of preschoolers
- interviews and survey for professionals and parents

The examination of the dimensions of wisdom utilizes a wisdom model under progress, which is a synthesis of several previous models. It is now applied in the context of the activities of children of preschool age.

https://ktl.jyu.fi/en/research/wisdom-learning/preschool-education-and-forest



Preliminary findings

According to the preliminary results some of the dimensions of wisdom, such as compassion towards nature and human, as well as practical wise action, begin to emerge in the everyday life of preschool education in a forest environment.

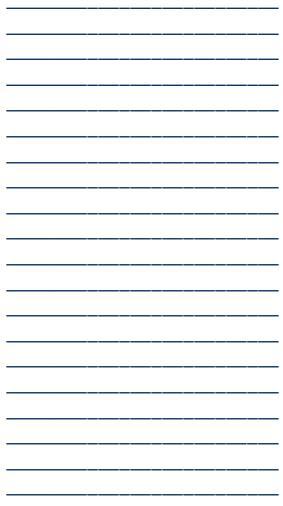
Preliminary signs of
wisdom in everyday life
of preschool education
in a forest environment

Compassion
towards nature
and human
beings

Practical
action
Change of
viewpoints

Relevance to Nordic educational research

Connecting wisdom research to forest preschool environment will give further insight into children's capacities for learning practical wisdom. Psychologically, at least early signs of wisdom dimensions some can be detected. Moreover, this approach may strengthen both environmental and social sustainability education in preschool contexts.







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