

Outdoor Classroom Duties:

Designated persons will provide self-serve outdoor materials.

- Teachers may request that the Outdoor Classroom Coordinator provide coordination with other classrooms for setting up or removing activities.
- A teacher or age group team can either plan or spontaneously extend their classroom activities to the outdoors for an indoor/outdoor connection.
- With the teacher's encouragement children may "Bring it outdoors!"
- For extended periods of supervision for a single messy activity, teachers should take turns to facilitate an activity as well as take turns to implement the set up and take down, including supervised clean up with the children.

Storage and organization of outdoor materials:

- Metal baskets with handles can be used to store and carry an assortment of toys for the sandbox, water table and other areas. An assortment of items may be placed in the baskets quickly by many children and returned to the storage area by a helper during cooperative clean up.
- Stackable, clear, labeled containers with lids provide storage for play sets, such as washable babies, bubbles, art supplies, car wash, garden and science tools and things that float. Return the stackable containers with lids secure to keep the contents clean.
- Clear or clearly identified backpacks can be hung on hooks or on the fence and chosen by children to take to their choice of location with friends or alone for "On the Go Activities."
- Covered trash bins or storage bins on wheels for ease of moving by children can be used for storing blocks and other toys.

Maintenance Duties:

- Some items need monitoring to avoid damage and excess. Examples include: Use chalk on the sidewalk and chalkboards, not on the buildings. Use non-spill containers for bubbles. Replace lids on paint cups.
- Replenish consumable supplies such as shaving cream, paint, bubbles, shampoo, sidewalk chalk and soap.
- Provide hooks for vinyl smocks for water play and shirts or art projects.
- Bleach the water and sand tables and tubs.

Who is responsible if there is not an Outdoor Classroom Coordinator or designated persons?

- Who will decide which supplies will be offered outdoors and when to rotate supplies?
- Who will plan the outdoor activities and replenish the consumable supplies?
- Where will the outdoor supplies be stored?
- If outdoor storage is not self-serve for children, who will set out the activities and collect them at the end of the sessions?
- Who completes a periodic outdoor classroom safety check list?
- Who communicates with the grounds maintenance personnel regarding discovery areas to be left untouched?
- Who is responsible for identifying the most common insects, birds and other wildlife to assure that the creatures and children have a safe habitat?
- Who coordinates the redesign of the transition from playground to Outdoor Classroom?

Adapted from: North Carolina State University Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, DeBord, K., R. Moore, L. Hestenes, N. Cosco, J. McGinnis. Making the Most of Outdoor Time with Preschool Children. Cited (2006).
www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/fcs/human/pubs/FCS507.pdf