



April 21, 2008

*Parental Wisdom – Emails
Responding to Nature's Call*

We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children.
-Ancient Proverb

Global climate change, pollution and how large a carbon footprint you leave behind may seem like many issues parents face - overwhelming.

The answer is actually quite simple and lies in the ancient proverb that states we borrow the earth from our children.

Unfortunately, we take our children from the very thing they gravitate to, the wonders of nature. We put them in schools too early, in front of computers too early, in organized sports programs too early, all because being inside and educated means they will be safe, smart and ready for a cutthroat world.

According to a recent article in the Wall St. Journal, the birthplace of kindergarten is returning to its roots - quite literally. Children ages 3 to 6 walk into a forest outside Frankfurt Germany to sing songs, build fires and roll in the mud. To relax, they kick back in a giant 'sofa' made of tree stumps and twigs.

Fredrick Frobel, the German educator who opened the world's first kindergarten actually called it a "children's garden." He suggested that children of this age learn far more by playing in nature than they do immersed in letters and numbers.

Let's move from 'No Child Left Behind' to 'No Child Left Inside' and stop our 5-year-olds from what some educators call 'early academic fatigue.' If you can't change the education system, at least you could give your children the gift of spending time with nature. Take a walk with your child and see what he sees, it's amazing what a young child can teach you.

Perhaps if we made this a habit, there wouldn't be a need to set aside April 22nd to remember the Earth; everyday would be Earth Day.

Mud pies anyone?

To learn more about what you can do visit Parental Wisdom Free Report where you'll see helpful tips from Dr. Sally Goldberg: It's Not Easy Being Green.