

Growing Natural Outdoor Preschool Classrooms to Scale Los Angeles Unified School District's Bold Approach

LAUSD Early Childhood
Education Division



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Ranae
Amezquita



Dean Tagawa,
Ed.D.



Kirsten
Haugen



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What was the
percentage of
green space
on the
playground
when you
were a child?



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Who We Serve



- Demographics
- Locations
- Priority zip codes



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Dealing with Trauma

- Foster youth, teen parents, and community violence
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- Low-income and district investments
- Protective Factors for Families



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Access and Equity



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Why?

- 51/86 (½ and ¼)
- 74 out of 100
- LILA
- 2nd largest district
- Research
- Locked syndrome vs. open space
- Involvement



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Why?



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How?

- Bond funding
- Board support
- Facilities support
- Community support



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How?

- Research-based
- Collaboration & partnerships
- Ongoing commitment



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How?

- Storytelling & celebration



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How?



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How?



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How?



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How?



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4th Street Early Education Center



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Addressing and Solving Unexpected Challenges

- Sustainability Specialists
- High quality professional development
- Interdisciplinary collaboration at all levels



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Impact

- Waiting lists
- Bi-partisan support
- Showcase
- 7.9 vs 5.5 incident reports



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Well-being

- Number of incidents
- Community beautification
- Pride of ownership
- Impact on families



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Typical EEC Playground



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Learn more at bit.ly/value-of-nature



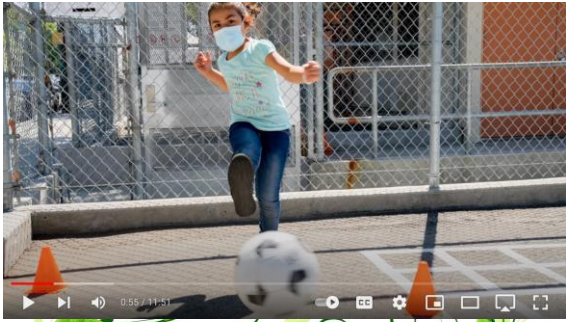
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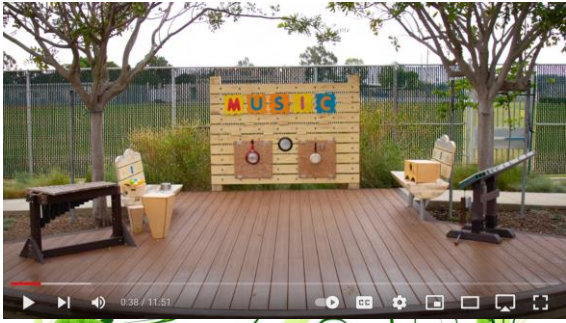
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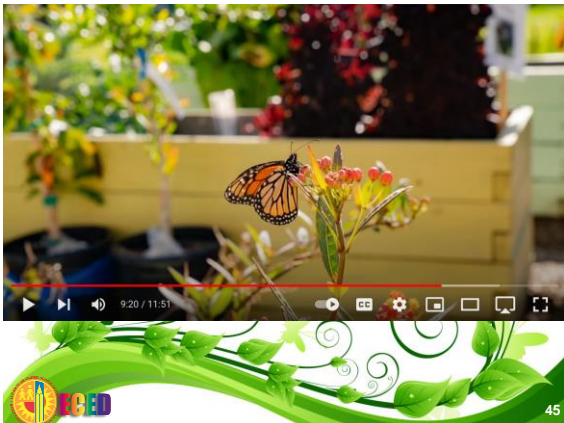
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Reflect

- How does having a natural environment impact a student's social emotional development?



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Thank you

Always find time for the things that make you feel happy to be alive!



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Q&A



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Dr. Dean Tagawa and
Ranae Amezcua
achieve.lausd.net/eced

Kirsten Haugen
natureexplore.org



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