



A Collaborative Program of
Arbor Day Foundation and
Dimensions Educational Research Foundation

Press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ABC Great Beginnings-Redwood Receives National Recognition as a Certified Nature Explore Classroom

Lincoln, Neb. (October 27, 2016)— ABC Great Beginnings-Redwood, located at 3672 S. Redwood Road in West Valley, Utah has earned national recognition as a Certified Nature Explore Classroom from the Nature Explore program, which is a collaboration of Dimensions Educational Research Foundation and the Arbor Day Foundation.

This is the second ABC Great Beginning site that has achieved certification within the last 5 months. These Certified Nature Explore Classrooms foster highly effective, nature-based outdoor learning, and ABC Great Beginnings-Redwood has created a space that allows for idea sharing, peer support and continuous development for educators.

“ABC Great Beginnings-Redwood has shown valuable leadership in growing the next generation of environmental stewards,” said Heather Fox, director of communications and outreach for the Nature Explore program. Fox said. “Their commitment to providing research-based and nature-rich learning offers a wonderful example to families and educators throughout the country. Spaces like these inspire wonder, experimentation, child-led play and learning, and skill development within interactive, fun environments.”

These unique outdoor classrooms—which are springing up like wildflowers across the country—offer interactive elements such as musical instruments made of natural materials, garden or pathway areas, and natural materials for building and creating art. Research consistently shows that children who learn and grow in Nature Explore Classrooms exhibit enhanced concentration, develop creativity and



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problem solving techniques, manage stress in healthy ways and develop skills across the spectrum of academic and creative learning.

Nature Explore Classrooms were developed by a team of master educators, landscape architects and researchers in response to the documented growing disconnect between children and nature. The classrooms help fill this void by integrating research-based outdoor learning opportunities into children's daily lives. Classrooms that are designed according to standards and principles described in Dimensions Educational Research Foundation's [Learning With Nature Ideas Book](#) are eligible to become Certified Nature Explore Classrooms.

More about **ABC Great Beginnings-Redwood** may be found [here](#).

About Arbor Day Foundation: Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. More information on the Foundation is available at arborday.org.

About Dimensions Educational Research Foundation: The mission of the Dimensions Educational Research Foundation is to transform children's lives through meaningful daily connections with nature. Its Nature Explore team provides research-based outdoor classroom design services, educator workshops and natural products. More information about Dimensions is available at <http://www.dimensionsfoundation.org/>

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