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# Outdoor play and environmental pedagogies in early childhood education and care (0-8 years)

- a pilot study on practices in Africa and Europe to support the development of early childhood environmental pedagogies?





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This presentation invites to a discussion

- of the developing British Ecological Society Pedagogical Grant funded pilot project
- Online questionnaire method and content discussion

# Foundation for Environmental Stewardship in EC

- ▶ young children outdoor play and experiences of nature can influence their commitment to environmental sustainability as they grow up (Kuo, Barnes and Jordan 2019).
- ▶ Early Childhood connections crucial (Liefliander et al., 2013)



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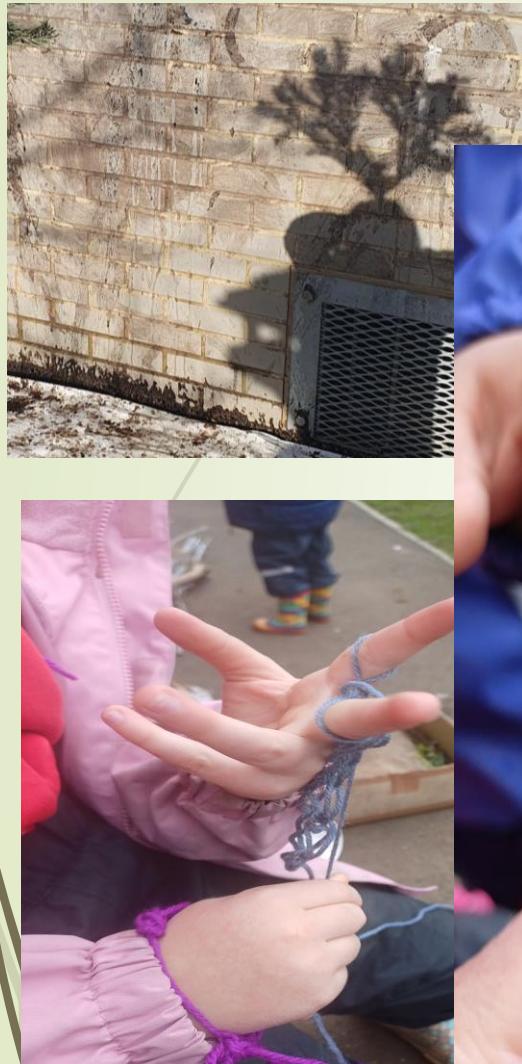
- ▶ However, it is not well understood how ECEC professionals understand and practice environmental pedagogies (Wyver 2024).
- ▶ And the position of play therein ...

# Study

- Pilot of an online survey
- ECEC professionals
- to evaluate **knowledge** and **practice** in **outdoor play** and **environmental pedagogies** in **Nigeria, Ghana, England and Denmark**
- opportunities, **practices** and barriers for **environmental pedagogies** in ECEC



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## **Method – ease of participation**

The survey will be distributed via Survey Monkey,

Mobile phone accessibility (critical for respondent rates)

To ensure: accessibility, data privacy, enabling informed consent.

**Max 20 questions**

The  
questionnaire  
- how to  
balance time,  
insights and  
context  
information?

**TIME TO DISCUSS**



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# How many context questions needed?



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- country, state and municipality/borough
- Setting type (nursery, school...)
- Role, Qualification & experience
- area of your school/nursery (urban... rural)
- **outdoor space – nature access and time?**



How many contexts  
do you value?

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What is in your understanding the best way for children to connect to nature/become environmental agents

How do you value children's outdoor play

How do you value children's ecological/environmental understanding

How do you support children's nature and environment understanding

**Please share any 'environmental awareness led' outdoor play pedagogies, that you think might inform our and colleagues knowledge of practice**

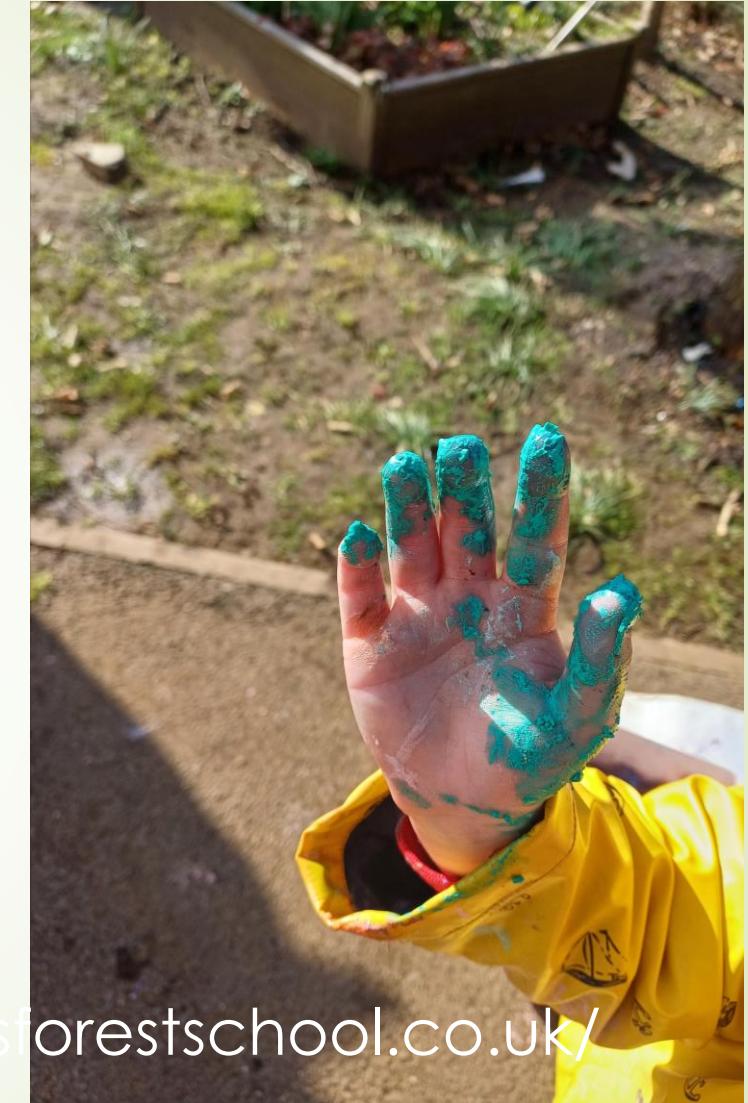
**How relevant is the questionnaire for you to reflect on outdoor play and environmental pedagogies**

# Addressing barriers

- ▶ Risks, weather, hazards
- ▶ Curriculum pressures
- ▶ Parental concerns
- ▶ Child adult ratio
- ▶ Individual children concerns about behavior
- ▶ Managing Chaos (external – internal work)
- ▶ Own set expectations (plan – aim – goal- performance  
(see next slide)

# Questions and provocations

- ▶ Curriculum (opportunities)
- ▶ Control (power)
- ▶ Chaos (mess and dirt)
- ▶ Confidence (agency)
- ▶ Curiosity (experimentation)



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Thank you

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