Quality Nature Education RUBRIC

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SD CHILDREN & NATURE

	Indirect experiences and awareness of nature	**Direct experiences in nature**	**Stewardship and/or action in nature**
Develop "sense of place" and understand the importance of local nature (focus on Cross-cutting Concepts)	Students orient on a map(s) to locate nature in the school, neighborhood, watershed, and region AND/OR Make field trip or walk to nature places within the watershed AND/OR Bring an expert to the classroom to talk about local nature AND/OR Students participate in an organized outdoor event, such as school or community clean-up	Students spend time in a natural area, park, open space or schoolyard in direct nature interactions (looking, listening, drawing) Nature observations focus on how cross-cutting concepts are exhibited: Patterns, Cause and Effect, Scale, Structure and Function, Stability and Change What is here? Why is it here? How does it compare with other places? AND Students communicate about how nature is connected to their lives (suggest, "I notice, I wonder, This reminds me of" from Beetles Project)	*Direct experiences in nature plus:* Students spend extended time in local nature, write or draw to illustrate the uniqueness of this place, describe the importance of this nature place in their lives, and communicate with peers or others about actions needed to care for this nature place
Investigate nature (focus on Science and Engineering Practices)	Students make observations of natural phenomena in the schoolyard or other outdoor setting (e.g., leaves, soil, organisms)	Students collect data outdoors to support a question, problem or purpose (which could be generated by teacher, nature provider or student) Data can include qualitative (e.g., observations) and quantitative. Data would be analyzed in classroom (not during field trip)	Students generate question or identify problem, design investigation, collect data outdoors, and analyze data to revise model or support argument (claim/evidence/reasoning) OR Students collect and analyze data to develop materials to communicate with peers or others in community (e.g. field guide, bulletin boards, video, writing, posters, plays)