



Chicago Commons Spring Learning Tour 2012 April 27 & 28

“Experiences with Nature”

*Children learning through encounters
with nature in an urban context.*

Keynote Speaker: Karen Haigh, Ph.D.

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Chicago Commons, a Reggio-Inspired Early Childhood program, is continually working on expanding children’s experiences with nature and natural elements. This year’s learning tour will illustrate Commons’ journey of fortifying children’s right to explore and experience, nature and natural materials. Some of the elements that will be discussed include:

- Accessing nature in our urban context
- Nature as a catalyst for building relationships between children, natural materials, parents and the community
- Opportunities with limited access to nature
- Seeing obstacles and working in spite of them



The Outdoor Classroom is a year-long pilot program developed by Chicago Commons Child Development Program. This project focuses on the collaborative and innovative aspects of emergent curriculum in order to forge a new path in making connections with nature.



In the fall of 2010, Chicago Commons began a collaborative effort with local landscape architects from Hitchcock Design Group to renovate the outdoor play area at the Paulo Freire Family Center with an emphasis on nature-based play.



Experiences with Nature

Chicago Commons
Spring Learning Tour 2012

Hotel Accommodations

Rooms are blocked at:

Holiday Inn Chicago Midway
6624 South Cicero Avenue,
Chicago, IL 60638
866-781-2404 or
708-563-6490

Hotel Deadline: April 5, 2012
midwayhotelcenter.com

Free shuttle to and from hotel
& learning tour

It is highly recommended to fly
into Midway Airport for convenience

Day 1, Friday April 27

**DuSable Museum
of African American History**
740 E. 56th Place Chicago, IL 60637

- Opening Reception
- Introduction
- Presentations of Children's Experiences
- Paulo Freire Center Natural Playground Project presented by architects from the Hitchcock Group
- Outdoor Classroom Pilot Project
- Evening Reception

Day 2, Saturday April 28

- Tour of Chicago Commons Centers
(Group number upon registration)

Group 1: **Nia Family Center**
744 N. Monticello Chicago IL 60624

Group 2: **Paulo Freire Center**
1653 W. 43rd Street Chicago IL 60609

Holiday Inn Midway Hotel
•Closing Reception

Chicago Commons Spring Learning Tour 2012 "Experiences with Nature"

Name _____
 Title _____
 Organization _____
 NAREA Member?
 _____ Yes _____ No
 Address _____

 City _____
 State/Prov _____
 Country _____
 Telephone # _____
 E-mail _____

\$395 per person

NAREA Members, Early Registration and
Group Rates, Contact: Catrice Groves
(see contact info below)

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Program

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