

Principles of Earth Education

The “Whys”

Preserving

We believe that the earth as we know it is endangered by its human passengers.

Nurturing

We believe people who have broader understandings and deeper feelings for the planet as a vessel of life are wiser and healthier and happier.

Training

We believe earth advocates are needed to serve as environmental teachers and models, and to champion the existence of earth’s nonhuman passengers.

The “Whats”

Understanding

We believe in developing in people a basic comprehension of the major ecological systems and communities of the planet.

Feeling

We believe in instilling in people deep and abiding emotional attachments to the earth and its life.

Processing

We believe in helping people change the way they live on earth.

The “Ways”

Structuring

We believe in building complete programs with adventuresome, magical learning experiences that focus on specific outcomes.

Immersing

We believe in including lots of rich, firsthand contact with the natural world.

Relating

We believe in providing individuals with time to be alone in natural settings where they can reflect upon all life.

From *Earth Education: A New Beginning*, Steve Van Matre, Greenville WV: The Institute for Earth Education, 1990.