

Wild Roots – Parent Insights

How was community fostered in the Wild Roots program?

Through much reflection, I have come to view community as a web of relationships. These relationships grow in a time and space that defines the place of the community. The nature of the relationships includes the concepts of interdependence and mutual respect.

In the span of two months, for me, the Wild Roots program has managed to build and nurture a strong community.

As parent facilitators with the lead of our Early Childhood Educator we came together, got to know each other and bonded in our educational sessions. These sessions provided us a welcoming space for our voices to be heard, contributing collaboratively to the growth of the program. We also challenged ourselves to learn new skills as well as grapple both philosophical and logistical issues that arise in an early childhood outdoor education program.

The children also developed relationships with one another as they shared in discoveries of the wild life surrounding them. They deepened their bonds as they played with each other, finding common interests or as they took on tasks to accomplish specific goals.

These two circles of relationships did not exist independently within our Wild Roots community. In our community we saw relations with no boundaries. Our interrelations included inter-species and inter-generational relationships. I found these to be the unique aspect of this program.

The inter-generational relationships allowed both parent and child to experience the natural world together, exploring, asking questions, finding problems and solutions and developing a deeper understanding and appreciation.

The inter-species relationship allowed us to interact with nature in a more intimate and thoughtful manner. We were more careful with our actions understanding the impact we could have on any life we encountered. We tried not to trample the milkweed plants as we walked the paths or splash the calm waters where the tadpoles and frogs rested. We were considerate with our neighbours in this natural community.

~ Wild Roots parent