

MOTHER NATURE'S CHILD

Growing Outdoors in the Media Age

The creators of this film and study guide are available for presentations, screenings and workshops.

Camilla Rockwell

Producer/Director

Fuzzy Slippers Productions

Email: director@mothernaturesmovie.com

Wendy Conquest

Co-producer

Email: Wendy.Conquest@valley.net

Matt Kolan, PhD

Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

University of Vermont

Email: mkolan@uvm.edu

DVD Artwork:

Casey Blanchard, Shelburne, VT

www.caseyblanchard.com

Graphic Design:

Gotham City Graphics, Burlington, VT

www.GothamCityGraphics.com

Study Guide Authors:

Matt Kolan

Camilla Rockwell

DVD Authoring:

Subatomic Digital, Inc., Williston, VT

www.rectangular.net

Website Design:

MarketRuler, LLC

www.marketruler.com

www.mothernaturesmovie.com



MOTHER NATURE'S CHILD

Growing Outdoors in the Media Age

sales rep:
1st ofa date:
artist:
cust:
control:
job #:
rel #:

Back Cover

Front Cover

- How might we address issues of accessibility/equity with respect to childhood connection to nature?
- How might participation in the food chain through hunting and fishing serve to create deep connection to nature?
- What practices or core routines can enhance nature connection? What role might parents and families play in cultivating these practices?
- What role have mentors played in your own connection to nature?
- What challenges might children encounter when they return home from a powerful nature experience? How can we support children in fully integrating nature experiences into their daily lives?

Implications and actions

- How does the film inform your understanding of what's needed to create more meaningful relationships with nature?
- After watching the film, what hopes, intentions, projects, practices, or one-step actions emerge for you?

General reflection on film content

- What images or themes in the film resonated most deeply for you? Why?
- What images or themes in the film were controversial or agitating for you? Why?

Specific questions related to film content

- How does fear influence human connection to nature?
- What are your biggest personal fears about experiencing wild places?
- What do you fear about your children's experiences with nature?
- What differences do you notice between indoor and outdoor learning experiences for children?
- What do you notice about the effects of free time outside on children's attention and focus?
- What are the biggest challenges teachers face in creating meaningful nature connection experiences for their students? How might these challenges be overcome?
- What capacities might we cultivate in ourselves in order to create intimate nature experiences for our children? (Must one know the ecology of a place or have a certain level of outdoor competence?)
- How might we provide exposure to nature that goes beyond "information gathering" and leads to deep feelings of connection?
- What is the appropriate role (including time/space) for technology at various ages in children's lives?

MOTHER NATURE'S CHILD

Growing Outdoors in the Media Age

Study Guide

Mother Nature's Child was produced with a variety of audiences in mind: parents and teachers; church, library and community groups; high school and university classrooms; medical, environmental and educational conferences; families and friends. This study guide is designed to support a post-film conversation. It offers a simple structure and a suite of questions to initiate a reflective dialogue about nature connection in our lives. We hope these questions, and the conversations that follow, will highlight both the challenges and opportunities we face in creating mutually enhancing relationships with the Earth.

Use the film and study guide to:

- Initiate open dialogue about the current state of nature connection in our lives and work.
- Highlight the implications of themes and issues raised in the film and explore multiple perspectives.
- Help reveal, challenge, and share personal assumptions about human relationship to nature.
- Inspire new steps and actions.

Guidelines for Dialogue

Learning to turn off one's "busy mind" and listen deeply to the language of the land is an essential tool for any aspiring naturalist. This same skill is fundamental to participation in authentic dialogue. Most of us are familiar with the art of discussion. We tend to have plenty of experience breaking apart another's argument and convincing them to adopt our perspective. For conversations related to the content in **Mother Nature's Child**, we invite you to engage in dialogue: a group inquiry process intended to reveal insights and collective wisdom that could not be attained individually.

The following principles may help provide a sound structure for productive dialogue:

- Suspend judgment and respect differences
- Identify and examine assumptions
- Practice deep listening
- Balance inquiry and advocacy
- Monitor airtime and make space for all to contribute
- Suspend role, rank, and status
- Assume good intent and examine potential impact
- Maintain confidentiality (stories stay, learning travels)

Of course, no single set of guidelines will work for every group. Before beginning, we suggest taking time to explore what each individual needs to feel safe, to be fully present and open to learning.

Questions and Prompts

The following questions and prompts provide a starting point for group dialogue. We recommend selecting the specific questions that are most relevant for your group's inquiry.

Building connection/relationship within the group

- Tell a short story about a moment when you felt deeply connected to nature.
- Tell a short story about a time when you were prevented from connecting to nature in the way you would have liked.
- Imagine the experience of future generations in nature. What is your ideal scene? Paint us a picture of what the world could look like.
- What do you see as the central obstacles, challenges, and barriers to creating more authentic and potent experiences with nature?