PATHWAYS TO PLAY: OVERCOMING NATURE PLAY BARRIERS

**FAMILY BARRIERS**

- **Time**
  Make nature play a priority like any other scheduled event and use the time for quality family bonding too.

- **Dirt**
  It’s natural for kids to explore the world around them, so be prepared with a change of clothes and let ‘em make mud pies.

- **Injuries**
  Nature play allows kids to learn their own boundaries and take calculated risks.

- **Access**
  Nature play can happen almost anywhere, from a single puddle to a day at the zoo or aquarium and beyond.

- **Difficulty “Unplugging”**
  Bring your smart phone to learn more about wildlife and plants along the way.

- **Safety**
  Nature play fosters awareness and self-confidence as kids grow and learn outside.

- **Stranger Danger**
  Join or start a Family Nature Club for fun and safety in numbers.

- **Weather**
  No such thing as bad weather if you’re well-prepared, so bundle up and feel invincible!

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**PROGRAMMING BARRIERS**

- **Cost**
  Collect natural and reusable materials and utilize volunteer resources. Explore opportunities for partnership and sponsorships.

- **Liability**
  Institutions are built for safety in mind and include staff trained in First Aid.

- **Space**
  Small areas can be used for “micro-hikes” or mini-gardens while partners can provide larger outdoor spaces.

- **Upkeep**
  Nature spaces are low-maintenance areas where creativity abounds. Messy means children are learning, and guests stay longer when having fun!

- **Accessibility**
  Exploration is a universal activity. Zoos and aquariums help guests connect to the natural world.

- **Priority**
  Nature play augments zoo and aquarium missions, supplements attendance, membership, and donations, and fosters engaged conservation stewards.

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