

# BMP #5

## Why Should My School Build Structures for Learning?

### Increased Academic Performance

- Reading, science, social studies, and mathematics scores improve.
- Students develop the ability to transfer their knowledge from familiar to unfamiliar contexts.
- Students “learn to do science” rather than “just learn about science.”
- All students have the opportunity to learn at a higher level.
- Proven to help students in under-resourced, low-income areas improve test scores



### Improvement in Behavior

Play and learning opportunities in a diverse, natural environment has been proven to reduce or eliminate bullying.

When students are exposed to learning outside and in nature, there is a proven increase in concentration of students with ADD and ADHD.

Research shows that outdoor experiences help reduce negative stress and protect psychological well being.

### Benefits to Students

Children develop knowledge and skills as they undertake real-life projects and learning in natural habitats. By studying science, math and other subjects through outdoor structures, students can connect to their local environment and become stewards of their community's natural resources.

Studies show that schools that use outdoor classrooms produce significant student gains in social studies, science, language arts and math.

Students show improved self esteem, problem solving and motivation to learn.

.Learning in a real world environment such as on trails, the school garden or local park develops a stewardship ethic.



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## How Can My School Build Structures for Learning?



- Build and use composting structures
- Have students build and hang Blue Bird Boxes, Bat Boxes, Nest Boxes
- Implement trails along Blue Bird Boxes. Bat boxes, and nests that have been installed



- Implement tree tagging
- Install Wildlife Viewing Blinds, Amphitheaters, Boardwalks, or Trails with signage
- Have students identify plants and animals around the school



- Establish a schedule to take the classroom outdoors—that way students and parents know to dress properly and look forward to it
- Implement story time outdoors—students can sit on carpet squares or buckets
- Set up 'learning log' circles for students to sit on and around



- Have a separate journal notebook for students to reflect on outdoor learning, collecting notebooks allows teachers to gauge student understanding, interest, etc
- Install a butterfly garden
- Create a music garden from recycled materials