

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

K-3 Explorer Kit

September 9, 2022 | Edmonton & Calgary

In 2021 & 2022, Inside Education collaborated with the Global, Environmental, and Outdoor Education Council (GEOEC) to produce an education tool kit to support Division 1 teachers in getting their students outside of their traditional classrooms and into nature. The K-3 Explorer Tool Kit was developed with this goal, comprising of a backpack full of activities and a teacher's guide to support learning outcomes using the outdoors as a classroom.

The first round of the tool kits was distributed during a teacher's professional development program hosted in Edmonton and Calgary on September 9, 2022 - during this two-hour, after school PD, the kit contents and activities and contents were showcased to 29 teachers and educators from across the province!



Feedback

Participant feedback on the follow-up survey was overwhelmingly positive, with teachers expressing appreciation and excitement for K-3 focused content from Inside Education and GEOEC!

"This was the best PD bang for my buck I've attended in a while! I can see myself using all of the ideas in the Teacher's Guide of the K-3 Explorer Toolkit with my students. They have evidently been vetted by early years teachers, and offer attainable and fun activities to connect my students with nature." - Sylvie Tissandier, Aleda Patterson School

"Thank you so much for listening to our request a couple of years ago to develop a resource for the teachers of younger kids. FANTASTIC!! You guys are the best!!!" - Colleen Kisely, Ft. Assiniboine School

"Thank-you for the ideas and resources. It was amazing to be surrounded by like-minded professionals with a wealth of experience." - Christine Gonkowicz, St. Maria Goretti



Futures

One definite conclusion that can be drawn from the success of this program is the high demand for resources and support for getting young students out of the classroom and learning outdoors! Inside Education specifically

With this in mind, Inside Education is keen to continue distributing the kits in order to support outdoor learning for young students across the province, and is planning to coordinate with GEOEC to distribute the remainder of the kits to interested teachers, possibly with accompanying virtual PD.