

## Natural Play and Learning Spaces

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

KidActive is excited to share our Natural Play and Learning Spaces (NPLS) program with your school. We look forward to being a part of your child's learning environment, and contributing to their school year. Our program is unique to each school and is designed in collaboration with students, educators, parents, caregivers and the community. Our goal is to enhance natural outdoor play spaces and increase active outdoor play and learning for every child.

### Phases of our program and what they include:

**ENGAGE.** KidActive facilitators share the program with educators, parents, school council, staff, community members and students through interactive presentations.

**LEARN and CONNECT.** KidActive facilitators work with students and educators during half-day, outdoor play-based learning sessions in their own schoolyard. This inclusive active outdoor play and learning gets kids moving and offers a variety of outdoor games and activities to use with their classmates and friends, both at school and in the community. We use mapping tools, surveys and audits as a part of the design process, fostering imagination and creativity.

**DEVELOP A SHARED VISION.** This is where parents, family and the community come into play to build a shared vision. Input will be collected from students and teachers during visioning sessions and we will build working groups to define and reach goals.

**DESIGN and PLAN.** Collectively, we design the space, plan the project, create a budget, research funding and submit grant applications.

**CREATE the SPACE.** Let's get busy! This is where students, parents, educators and the community put the plan into action. Together we create the space with local resources and materials to reflect the natural and cultural features of the area, building an inspiring outdoor learning and play space. KidActive will develop a professional development workshop for educators in this new space.

**MEASURE and ADJUST.** Together, we evaluate our engagement and the space we create, making adjustments where needed.

KidActive works hard to include everyone in the NPLS process, from student to grandparent. Join us in supporting your child's enthusiasm. When possible, increase outdoor play at home and in your community. Please read NPLS newsletters and materials your child brings home. Send them to school prepared and engage in conversation about the progress they are making in creating a sense of place.

If you have any questions about the NPLS program we welcome you to talk to a member of the KidActive team. We are eager to hear your input and feedback. The NPLS program is constantly developing and our success is based on meeting the needs of our clients. We look forward to working with you and your child in developing a space they can call their own.

You can contact us at: [connect@kidactive.ca](mailto:connect@kidactive.ca) or visit our website at [www.kidactive.ca](http://www.kidactive.ca)

*Yours in fun and learning,*  
**The KidActive Team**

### Our program objectives:

Enhance the quality and quantity of active outdoor play and learning

Build a healthier learning and play environment for all students

Design and create spaces for inclusive, cooperative, creative, inspiring play and innovative learning opportunities in our school yards

Share educational resources to support cross-curricular outdoor learning

Engage school staff, students, parents and the community

Contribute to Ontario's Healthy School Strategy, Children's Outdoor Charter, and align with the regional healthy school initiatives across Renfrew County