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Teaching
Kids
to  Love
the
Earth

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Ann Linnea
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Illustrations by Carolyn Olson



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AN INVITATION

For the past seven years we have taught family-based nature workshops in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin. At the heart of our teaching is an idea from Rachel Carson's book, *The Sense of Wonder*. She wrote that it is more important to begin with feelings about the natural world than knowledge of it.

Inspired by Carson, we have developed a philosophy and a style of teaching that is designed to help keep alive an inborn sense of wonder about the natural world.

This book is a collection of earth-caring activities from our teaching. The activities are arranged and presented in theme sections to illustrate what we call "The Sense of Wonder Circle."

Experiences along the circle will awaken your *curiosity*, lead to *explorations* and *discoveries*, and inspire you to *share* your discoveries and sense of wonder with others. Ultimately, those experiences will lead you to care *passionately* for the earth.

Each chapter of this book contains a story to illustrate the main activity. We also have included “Did You Know,” “Resources” and “Other Ideas” sections in each chapter to help you plan your own adventures. Most of our experiences were gained in our northern environment, but these activities and ideas can be tailored to fit any locale.

Use this book in a spirit of adventure. Let Carolyn Olson’s art draw you into the stories and activities. To capture the essence of the activities, spend some time with what we have written. Then take your friends, your family or your students outdoors.

Finally, design and carry out activities specific to your own home and its environment. Find for yourself that sense of wonder.

This book is intended to stimulate feelings—deep feelings for the earth. These feelings may be as fragile as the gossamer wings of a damsel fly, as powerful as the love between parent and child, as stunning as an icy blast of November wind off the vast expanse of Lake Superior, or as warm as a wilderness campfire.

We hope the experiences you gain by using this book will stimulate strong feelings that will enable you and your friends to be responsible and loving caretakers of the earth.

MARINA LACHECKI
ANN LINNEA
JOSEPH F. PASSINEAU
PAUL TREUER



If a child
is to keep alive his
inborn sense of wonder,
he needs the
companionship
of at least one adult
who can share it,
rediscovering with him
the joy, excitement
and mystery of the
world we live in.

Rachel Carson

Teaching **Kids** to Love **the** Earth

C O N T E N T S

CURIOSITY

1. Serentripity 3
2. Abberwocky 11
3. By the Light of the Moon 19

EXPLORATION

4. Predator/Prey 31
5. It's a Keeper 41
6. In the Arms of the Cottonwood 51
7. Journey Into the Past 61

DISCOVERY

- 8. *Spring's Sweet Flow* 73
- 9. *The Gift of Fire* 83
- 10. *Solo* 91
- 11. *Reflections in the Snow* 101

SHARING

- 12. *Chuck the Penguin* 111
- 13. *On the Ropes* 123
- 14. *The Bunkhouse* 133

PASSION

- 15. *On the Trail of John Muir* 145
- 16. *Bulldozers and Boardrooms* 155
- 17. *Wisdom's Ways* 167

A FINAL INVITATION