



A Collaborative Program of
Arbor Day Foundation and
Dimensions Educational Research Foundation

For more information, contact:

Lana Gilson (Nature Explore)
402-873-8709
lanag@natureexplore.org

Helen Cohen (FJECC)
617-739-6455
hcohen@tisrael.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Frances Jacobson Early Childhood Center at Temple Israel of Boston Receives National Certification as Nature Explore Classroom

Nebraska City, Neb. (September 17, 2015): The Frances Jacobson Early Childhood Center at Temple Israel of Boston (located at 477 Longwood Avenue in Boston, Massachusetts) has earned national certification. The Rita and Adam J. Weiner Outdoor Classroom has been named a Nature Explore Classroom. This certification is awarded through Dimensions Educational Research Foundation and the Arbor Day Foundation.

The Frances Jacobson Early Childhood Center joins a growing network of organizations and institutions who have created effective, nature-based outdoor learning environments for children. This network allows for idea-sharing, peer support, and continuous development. More information on The Rita and Adam J. Weiner Outdoor Classroom may be found at <http://certified.natureexplore.org/frances-jacobson-early-childhood-center>.

“The Frances Jacobson Early Childhood Center has shown tremendous leadership in growing the next generation of environmental stewards,” said Susie Wirth, Nature Explore Outreach Director. “Their commitment to providing research-based and nature-rich learning offers a wonderful example to educators throughout the country.”

Nature Explore Classrooms are part of the [Nature Explore](#) program, a collaborative project of the Arbor Day Foundation and Dimensions Educational Research Foundation developed in response to the growing disconnect between children and nature. Certified Nature Explore Classrooms help fill the void by integrating research-based outdoor learning opportunities into children’s daily lives.

The classrooms, which are being developed across the country, offer interactive elements such as musical instruments made of natural materials, garden or pathway areas and natural materials for building and creating art. Children who learn and grow in Certified Nature Explore Classrooms enhance concentration, develop creativity and problem-solving, relieve stress and improve skills in many areas of development.

Outdoor classrooms that are designed according to standards and principles described in Dimensions Educational Research Foundation’s *Learning With Nature Idea Book* are eligible to become certified Nature Explore Classrooms. A new guidebook, *At Home With Nature: Creating Nature Explore Playscapes for Families*, helps parents bring the same research-based approach to learning in nature to their own children at home.



A Collaborative Program of
Arbor Day Foundation and
Dimensions Educational Research Foundation

The first Nature Explore Classroom is located in the Tree Adventure attraction at Arbor Day Farm, the Arbor Day Foundation's interactive conservation venue in Nebraska City, Nebraska. More information on the program can be found at natureexplore.org.

About Arbor Day Foundation: Arbor Day Foundation is a million member nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. More information on the Foundation is available at arborday.org.

About Dimensions Educational Research Foundation: The mission of the non-profit Dimensions Educational Research Foundation is to inspire children, families and educators to connect more deeply with the world around them by providing innovative, research-based programs and resources.

About The Frances Jacobson Early Childhood Center at Temple Israel: The FJECC serves children from 21 months to 5 years old. We are committed to providing the highest quality early childhood education in both secular and Judaic studies in a safe, nurturing and non-pressured environment. Under the guidance of experienced, well-trained and highly educated teachers, we strive to meet the needs of each child by paying close attention to his or her development, interests, and strengths.

About Temple Israel of Boston: Temple Israel is a diverse, urban, Reform Jewish congregation where all are welcome to live Judaism together through discovery, dynamic spirituality, and righteous impact. We welcome the opportunity to comment further on this story.