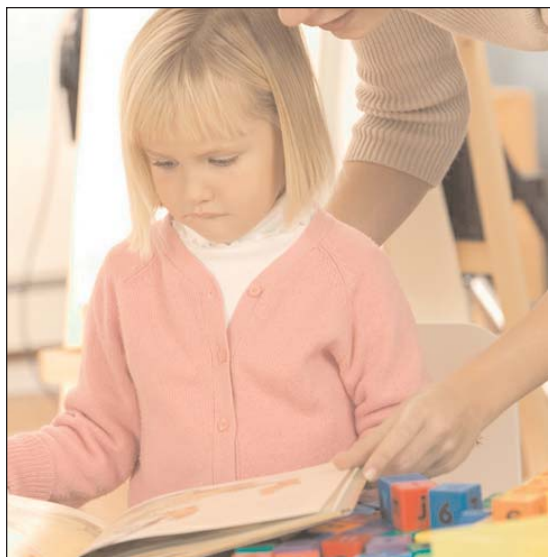


2010



# THE LEARNING CHILD

Environmental Education  
Guidance



2 30-min. Programs  
Grades K-12 (for teachers)  
Website

For children to become active learners, they need to enjoy the learning process and to see it as meaningful in relation to their own lives. The Learning Child Series is about nurturing the whole child, attending to cognitive development in the context of a child's social and emotional growth, recognizing that each child is unique and every child's needs are different. Guided by the Child Development Institute at Sarah Lawrence College, the programs offer educational approaches that can guide children to become motivated, questioning and thoughtful learners. Our programs promote such "habits of mind" as personal curiosity, problem solving abilities, "as-if" thinking and acceptance of different points of view. Finally, the Series is premised upon a partnership between parents and educators in contributing to a child's lifelong development as a "genuine learner."

**1. When Learning Comes Naturally— (For Grades 3-8)** How can children be encouraged to make a lasting connection to nature? This program profiles the efforts of four schools in New York, California and New Jersey to introduce children to the natural world and to involve them-through outdoor play, class activities, and their own creative work-in a process of outdoor discovery.

Beyond the immediate benefits to child development that come with exploration and improvisational learning, the program documents how meaningful time spent outdoors can cultivate in children a permanent caring for the natural world—a crucial ethic of environmental responsibility.

**WHEN LEARNING COMES NATURALLY** documents innovative outdoor-education programs around the country created to help children understand and experience the wonders and joys of nature. The film explores the immediate and lasting benefits of introducing young children to "green" experiences. Natural spaces—in the form of gardens, small trails and outdoor "green adventure" areas—allow for the discoveries and choices vital to child development and learning. In addition, outdoor education can cultivate in children a permanent connection with the natural world—a crucial ethic of environmental responsibility.

**2. Values Go to School— (For Grades K-12)** Hosted by singer-songwriter James Taylor, **VALUES GO TO SCHOOL** explores how educators, administrators and parents increasingly are making values education part of their school's curriculum.

The documentary visits four suburban and urban schools, with students ranging in age from five to 19, to document how teachers are helping their students make positive, ethical choices within a supportive classroom setting. In planned and spontaneous interactions, these teachers address cultural understanding, non-violent conflict resolution, friendship and self-respect, along with lessons on caring, sharing, tolerance, compassion, independence and responsibility.

Leaving the school environment, the program observes parents who welcome the school's approaches as complementary to their own. As the mother of one first grader says, "It's the parent and the teacher working together that nourish the whole child." Exploring this partnership between families and educators to guide children as they make the choices involved in growing up, **Values Go to School** documents the need for an increased commitment to this fundamental educational experience.

Children can learn so much in school about what is fair, respect for others and how to get along...if adults are trained to guide them. This program profiles ways to help children learn values—and become the caring, curious and confident people we know they can be!

***Additional Resource Information:***

The website to support this series is found at [www.thelearningchildseries.org](http://www.thelearningchildseries.org)



These programs are licensed through WVPT and may be obtained on DVD or videotape from your school or division media center.