

Osoyoos Elementary School Plan – Student Development through Outdoor Education

Scanning

- Student mental health – approximately 8% of students have a behaviour IEP, most of which are anxiety based
- Increase in absences on field trip days – many parents giving the reason for absence is because of the field trip
- Anxious Generation – increase in overprotection in the outside world and a decrease in protection in the digital world
- Not all students have the same experiences – shared experiences create equity
- Environmental focus has become less important in the current political climate
 - Education is key to environmental stewardship
- Indigenous ways of knowing can be greatly increased within our school
- Outdoor learning comfort/familiarity of outdoor education pedagogy is limited amongst staff

Focusing

By focusing on outdoor education as the umbrella for personal development, we want to help create more well-rounded students with improved mental health, problem solving, academic achievement and a respect for the natural environment.

Developing a Hunch

What are we doing that is contributing to this situation?

- Outdoor education has been seen as extra or separate in many classrooms within the school
- Outdoor learning has also been seen as something that may be uncomfortable for some staff
- We have spaces that are almost ready for outdoor learning to happen but there are little changes that are needed to make it successful



Checking

- Empathy Interviews – staff and students
- Tracking student participation
- Student achievement data
- Experience exit slips – end of 4 sessions

Taking Action

Learning

- Participation in Braiding Sweetgrass webinar series
- Teacher leaders – sharing knowledge