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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Lutheran Preschool receives National Recognition as a Certified Nature Explore Classroom

Lincoln, Neb. (current date, 2022)— First Lutheran Preschool, located at 3604 Chatham Road in Ellicott City, Maryland has earned recognition as a Certified Nature Explore Classroom from the Nature Explore program, which is a division of nonprofit Dimensions Educational Research Foundation.

This certification confers on First Lutheran Preschool a number of benefits, including membership in an ever-expanding network of more than 500 like-minded spaces. Certified Nature Explore Classrooms foster highly effective, nature-based outdoor learning.

“First Lutheran Preschool’s commitment to providing research-based and nature-rich learning offers a wonderful example to programs and educators throughout the country.” said Heather Fox, director of communications and outreach for the Nature Explore program. “These spaces inspire hands-on activity, creativity, play and plenty of time exploring the natural world for children of all ages.”

These unique outdoor classrooms offer interactive, open-ended materials and elements that allow them to use their creativity, imaginations and initiative. Research consistently shows that children who learn and grow in Nature Explore Classrooms exhibit enhanced concentration, develop creativity and problem solving techniques, manage stress in healthy ways and develop skills across the spectrum of academic and creative learning.



Nature Explore Classrooms have been developed by a team of master educators, landscape architects and researchers in response to the documented growing disconnect between children and nature. The classrooms help fill this void by integrating research-based outdoor learning opportunities into children's daily lives. 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.

More information **about** First Lutheran Preschool may be found at <https://certified.natureexplore.org/first-lutheran-preschool/>

About Dimensions Educational Research Foundation: The mission of the Dimensions Educational Research Foundation is to transform children's lives through meaningful daily connections with nature. Its Nature Explore team provides research-based outdoor classroom design services, educator workshops and natural products. More information about Dimensions is available at <http://www.dimensionsfoundation.org/>

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