



Science in Action[®] Newsletter

Fall Edition

Welcome to SIA...

Congratulations for being selected as one of 30 schools in BC to participate in WildBC's Science in Action Program!

You are in good company with other educators like yourself, who are interested in active, engaging and unique ways to make the new science curriculum come alive.

Science in Action (SIA) embodies a wish list of features that teachers and WildBC facilitators felt an ideal outreach program would

contain. SIA allows us to work with a whole school and develop strong supportive bonds between teachers and facilitators over the entire school year. And SIA comes with...



in handy backpacks, as well as black line masters and grade-by-grade lesson plans correlated to prescribed learning outcomes.

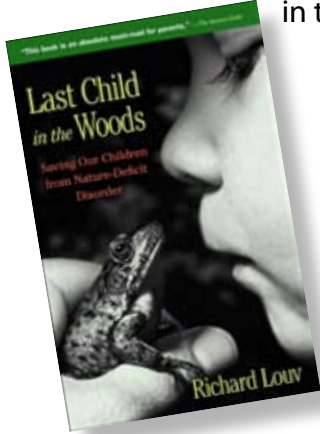
Support- a 4-hour staff workshop, 2 additional hours of access to a facilitator (per class), and user-friendly forms for tracking progress and communicating with WildBC.

Time-Saving Resources - a kit that stays at your school chockful of prepared activities and supplies ready to take outside

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WIN! a copy of **Last Child in the Woods** by Richard Louv



Send in an email to wild@gov.bc.ca and tell us how you're using the Science In Action materials. A short story, feedback or experience is all we need to hear and you're entered into a draw for your own copy of this insightful and moving book about the importance of nature for children.

Draw June 15



Easy Tips to get Outdoors

Try some of our favourite warm-up activities to set the stage for learning in an outdoor classroom.



Waking up the senses (any age) Have the group do all or some of the following.

Touch

Rub hands together, feel the heat generated.

Touchstones - ask participants to place their hands behind their backs; you place a stone in each hand. Have them get to know their stone by touch only. Collect all the stones after a minute. Mix up the stones and place a new stone in each hand. Have the group pass the stones around and when a participant has received their original stone, they step out of the circle. Try different objects found in nature.

Hearing

Silently listen with eyes closed, to how many sounds you can hear. Cupping your ears can help focus the listener and enhance the sounds. Count on your fingers the number of different sounds you hear.

Sound map - Draw yourself or, you and a partner, in the centre of a piece of paper. Draw a sound map of what you hear while listening silently. Record what

direction each sound originates. What do you think it might be? Use symbols or real images to represent what you hear. Later you can create a legend for your map and the symbols you have used.

Smell

Identify different ambient smells or types of smells.

Pass an object found in nature (e.g. a leaf or piece of wood) around the circle.

Sight

Take a shape, colour (see rainbow chips below) or texture walk and talk.

Rainbow Chips - Cut up paint chips so you have squares of colours. Pass these out and ask your participants to match the colour in the environment surrounding them. How many different kinds of green can you find?

How do I select an Activity to do?

There are several approaches to selecting an activity influenced by your theme, current classroom teaching emphasis and whether you are interested in tracking 6 SIA activities to qualify for the field trip related to your SIA theme.

Here are some ways:



Unit Plans- unit plans for each grade can be found on the **Teacher CD**. A **dragonfly** next to the lesson name indicates that it can be used toward the reward.



Tracking Tool - the Tracking Tool found on your **Teacher CD** and in the **SIA School Binder** lists activities that are applicable toward the six needed to qualify for the reward.



Explore the Kit - Activities have been prepared in easy-to-use waterproof backpacks ready to take to your classroom, the gym or outside. A laminated **Kit Content List** provides a quick summary of the contents of your Kit. A **dragonfly** next to an activity on the Content List indicates that you can use it to qualify for the reward.



Talk to other teachers - talk to other teachers (see the "Who's doing SIA poster") at your school to find their opinions, tips and possible grade adaptations, on activities they've tried.

Q After the workshop, what's next?

- A**
- 1) **Two hours of support time** is available per class from your facilitator.
 - 2) **Complete any 6 activities** from your tracking tool.
 - 3) **Submit your tracking tool** to the WildBC office



Then... **choose from two options for your reward:**

A) Outdoor fieldtrip

Up to \$200/class reimbursement. Must be outdoors & have an element of physical activity. School and/or School District must invoice for reimbursement (with receipts). Transportation/program cost at site applicable.

B) Additional Facilitator Support

Up to 5 additional facilitator hours. May be used toward a physically active action project or a facilitator led outdoor field trip.

Q What kinds of things can I use my facilitator follow up time for after the workshop?

A Two free hours are available per class for everyone who attended a SIA workshop.

There are many options available for your support time with your WildBC facilitator, here are a few examples (see table below). If you have an idea, get in touch with your facilitator and she or he will let you know if it can be used toward your support time.

Support time CAN include:

Meeting time with teacher (in-person, phone, email).

Meeting with a group of teachers from a specific grade to assist in planning and activity selection.

Answering questions about activities and help with SIA program process (eg: Q&A for forms).

In-class modelling of an activity.

Demonstrating outdoor activities with students (teacher cannot use this as one of their 6 trackable activities).

Assisting with a physically active action project.

Assisting in planning a physically active outdoor field trip.

Connecting teacher to community members/organizations related to SIA topic.

Support time CAN NOT include:

Conducting of activities that are to be included in their "6" for reward.

Expenses.

Other activities not associated with WildBC.



Celebrate with a Fieldtrip!

Earn a free field trip! After completing 6 select activities and submitting the tracking tool, classes can receive \$200 or 5 hours of additional facilitator support toward an active outdoor field trip related to their theme. A fun way to extend learning and celebrate active science education. So welcome and enjoy your year with SIA!

Why teach Science using physical activity and the outdoors?

"There are a lot of students who need this hands-on approach - that is their pathway to learning. These activities give them a chance to really grasp concepts. The kids really like the games especially. If you can make learning fun for them that's half the battle." – AN, Teacher

"The students really loved the activities, and most of them remembered the messages as well. I don't think they even knew it was science – I don't think they thought it was, they just had a lot of fun playing the game. That is beautiful integration of subjects. So they are getting exercise, playing games outside and learning concepts – it doesn't get better than that!" – CC, Teacher

Check us out online!

Visit www.wildbc.org to get more information about WildBC and to access more free online resources. We also have many SIA resources up on this site for easy downloading.



Contact WildBC

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Ministry of Environment

