



Chicago Commons
Spring Learning Tour 2012
"Experiences with Nature"
*Children learning through encounters
with nature in an urban context.*

Chicago Commons, a Reggio-Inspired Early Childhood program, is continually working on expanding children's experiences with nature and natural elements. This year's learning tour will illustrate Commons' journey of fortifying children's right to explore and experience, nature and natural materials. Some of the elements that will be discussed include:

- Accessing nature in our urban context
- Nature as a catalyst for building relationships between children, natural materials, parents and the community
- Building on children's experiences and interests
- Nurturing teachers to promote resourcefulness, creativity and risk taking

Day 1, Friday April 27

Paulo Freire Center
1653 W. 43rd St. Chicago, IL 60609

- Opening Reception
- Introduction
- Presentations of Children's Experiences
- Paulo Freire Center Site Tour
- Natural Playground Project presented by architects from the Hitchcock Group
- Outdoor Classroom Pilot Project

DuSable Museum of African American History

740 E. 56th Place Chicago, IL 60637
• Evening Reception

Day 2, Saturday April 28

- Tour of Chicago Commons Centers
Guadalupano Family Center
1814 S. Paulina Chicago, IL 60608
Taylor Center for New Experiences
1633 N. Hamlin Chicago, IL 60609
Nia Family Center
744 N. Monticello Chicago, IL 60624
- Closing Reception

Hotel Accommodations

Rooms are blocked at:
Holiday Inn Chicago Midway
6624 South Cicero Avenue,
Chicago, IL 60638
866-781-2404 or 708-563-6490

Group Code: CCL
Hotel Deadline: April 5, 2012
midwayhotelcenter.com

Free shuttle to and from hotel
& learning tour

**It is highly recommended to fly
into Midway Airport for convenience**



The Outdoor Classroom is a year-long pilot program developed by Chicago Commons Child Development Program. This project focuses on the collaborative and innovative aspects of emergent curriculum in order to forge a new path in making connections with nature.



Children at Paulo Freire Center's Room 11 construct theories about rainbows.

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Child Development Program
744 N. Monticello
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April 27 & 28

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Keynote Speaker: Karen Haigh, Ph.D.