

Go Outside and Play



THE AVERAGE AMERICAN CHILD spends more than six hours a day in front of a TV or computer and little if any time outdoors. That worries environmentalists, health professionals, and some lawmakers. Children who know more about phishing than fishing are more likely to suffer from obesity, hyperactivity, and stress. And they're less likely to be stewards of the earth as adults, warns *Last Child in the Woods* author Richard Louv, who coined the term *nature-deficit disorder*.

Some point a finger at federal education policy with its emphasis on standardized testing. Schools desperate to raise scores have canceled or cut back on field trips and recess, trimmed noncore subjects from curricula, and funneled resources toward test-related instruction. In April, congressional Democrats reintroduced legislation—the No Child Left Inside Act—that would provide funding for environmental education in schools and nonformal settings. For more information on how you can help, visit nclicoalition.org. >>

—Anna Dubrovsky