



# MAKING THE CASE FOR NATURAL PLAYGROUNDS

A community information session with Adam Bienenstock

More than ever, we need our play spaces to be rich in nature-based, open-ended experiences that give children, families and communities an opportunity to connect with nature and each other, over and over again.

Join award-winning Canadian outdoor play expert Adam Bienenstock as he draws on his extensive experience to help you understand the benefits of a natural playground and how to use them as another learning environment to enable and facilitate optimal child development.

**“Creating play spaces that use big stumps and rocks and incorporates music and art — touches on society’s three biggest preoccupations: health, education and the environment”.**

*Adam Bienenstock, MBA CEO & Founder, Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds, Canada*



## When

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2017  
3:30pm for a 4:00pm start  
7:30pm conclusion

## Where

University of Canberra  
Boiler House Lecture Theatre  
Building 14

## Cost

This is a FREE event  
Bookings essential



## ABOUT ADAM

Adam Bienenstock is an award winning consultant on design, construction, policy, risk and regulatory processes. His company, Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds ([www.naturalplaygrounds.ca](http://www.naturalplaygrounds.ca)), has designed and constructed over 700 playgrounds across the US and Canada. Bienenstock has made it his mission to bring the fun of nature to parks, schools and community centres. He thinks of it as building outdoor classrooms, where kids are encouraged to explore and imagine.

He serves as a board director at the Child and Nature Alliance, where he founded Nature Play Day, is a regular collaborator with Richard Louv’s US based Children and Nature Network, sits on the Ministers Round Table for Parks Canada, and teaches as part of the CPSA (Certified Playground Safety Academy).

## SESSION 1

### *Why Natural Playgrounds*

What are natural playgrounds and why is contact with nature so important for children?

Join Adam Bienenstock in an informative and irreverent keynote exploring the reasons for this new phenomenon in play. He will highlight how play has changed over time, why it is important to connect children to nature, and some examples of natural playgrounds that engage children on a whole other level. Backed up with lots of peer reviewed research and real life examples from his own projects, Adam Bienenstock makes a compelling and entertaining case for why nature play is the better choice!

## SESSION 2

### *Rating Literacy Skills in your Playground*

In this workshop we will compare, assess and promote literacy skills for any outdoor space. The focus will be on building nature rich environments to enhance literacy outdoors. We will begin by reviewing the many areas of a natural playground to reinforce how literacy skills develop and flourish when all senses are engaged. Once a baseline is created, participants will get a chance to assess their current playground and evaluate the literacy opportunities available. We will conclude with a brainstorming and goal setting session for participants to bring ideas and strategies back to their playgrounds.



## INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS

visit: [www.natureplaycbr.org.au](http://www.natureplaycbr.org.au)

