



Theorists

In the USA, the specific term outdoor education began to be used as early as the first decade of the 1900s (**Curtis, 1909**). At this time outdoor education simply meant a form of education that wasn't indoor education. Reformers used the terms out-door, or out-of-doors: hyphenated terms communicating a sense of being active in settings other than classrooms. To be involved in out-door education one had to exit a literal door into the school yard, the school garden, the community past the school fence, and perhaps even the woods beyond.

Here are some that you might want to look into a little further – this is not a definitive list.

- Jean-Jacques Rousseau 1704-1788 – childhood education
- Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi 1746-1827 - A child-centred rather than teacher-centred approach to teaching amongst others (the father of modern education)
- Kolb 1984 Experiential Learning cycle
- Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs
- vak - visual, auditory, kinaesthetic - learning styles model
- Nature Theory - "Nature is good" or "Garden of Eden" theory, 1960's-2000s
- Psycho-evolutionary
(James Neill et al, 2004) Psycho-evolutionary theory (PET) proposes that our behaviours, attitudes, cognitions, emotions, are shaped by what proved adaptive during human evolution, i.e., our psychological lives are significantly due to the forces of natural selection.
- Biophilia hypothesis
(E. O. Wilson, 1990's-2000's) The Biophilia Hypothesis (Wilson) proposes that human beings have genetically inherited a predisposition towards life-like processes and natural environments.
- Jean Piaget – schema, the things a child already knows. Students connect new knowledge to existing schema and constructivism where students learn by doing rather than being told.
- Vygotsky – Zone of Proximal development. The range of skills that are a little more difficult than a student can do independently and scaffolding - Changing the level of support to meet the ability of the child
- <https://sites.google.com/site/tourosottesman/theories-of-early-childhood>
- Monessori
- Richard Louv – Nature deficit disorder 2005