Enhancing the Outdoor Learning Environment

Jim Greenman, author of *Caring Spaces, Learning Places (Children’s Environments that Work; 2005)*, offers additional suggestions to enhance the outdoor learning environment:

- Organize your space
- Increase the use of water—add tubs, sprinklers, gutters and sprayers
- Freshen up your space by adding shrubs, boulders, logs and container plants
- Bring attention to outdoor art—add easels, chalk, paintbrushes and buckets of water
- Develop a pathway—use pavers or bridges
- Add an ornamental fence to help define a space
- Create a space for drama, such as a platform or playhouse
- Add bird feeders, birdbaths or butterfly gardens
- Add short benches, step stools or saw horses
- Add picnic tables and benches
- Create a safe throwing area
- Create a safe jumping platform and vary the heights from one inch to incrementally higher
- Create a gathering area for small groups or families
- Create places to balance, such as beams, logs and stumps