



Denise Noel

Outdoor classroom

Champions for Leadership
June 21, 2011



Vision

- Create Outdoor classrooms that increase opportunities for children to experience nature
- Create model outdoor classrooms (SCCOE goal)



Goals

- Increase use of natural materials at all sites
- Increase POEMS scores
- Generate ongoing interest in outdoor classrooms



What is POEMS

- POEMs is a Preschool Outdoor Environment Measurement Scale
- Assesses 5 domains in Early Childhood Outdoor programs
- Provides a starting point for enhancing outdoor classrooms



Seven Trees/Daniel Larion Elementary

- Seven Trees State Preschool playground at the beginning of the school year



Seven Trees/Daniel Larion Elementary

- Improved playground



Daniel Larion Elementary



Daniel Larion Elementary



Play Stands



Accomplishments

- Enhanced outdoor classrooms
- Added natural materials
- Provided training for teaching staff
- Celebrated with outdoor festivals



Natural Materials Cart



Enjoying outdoor materials

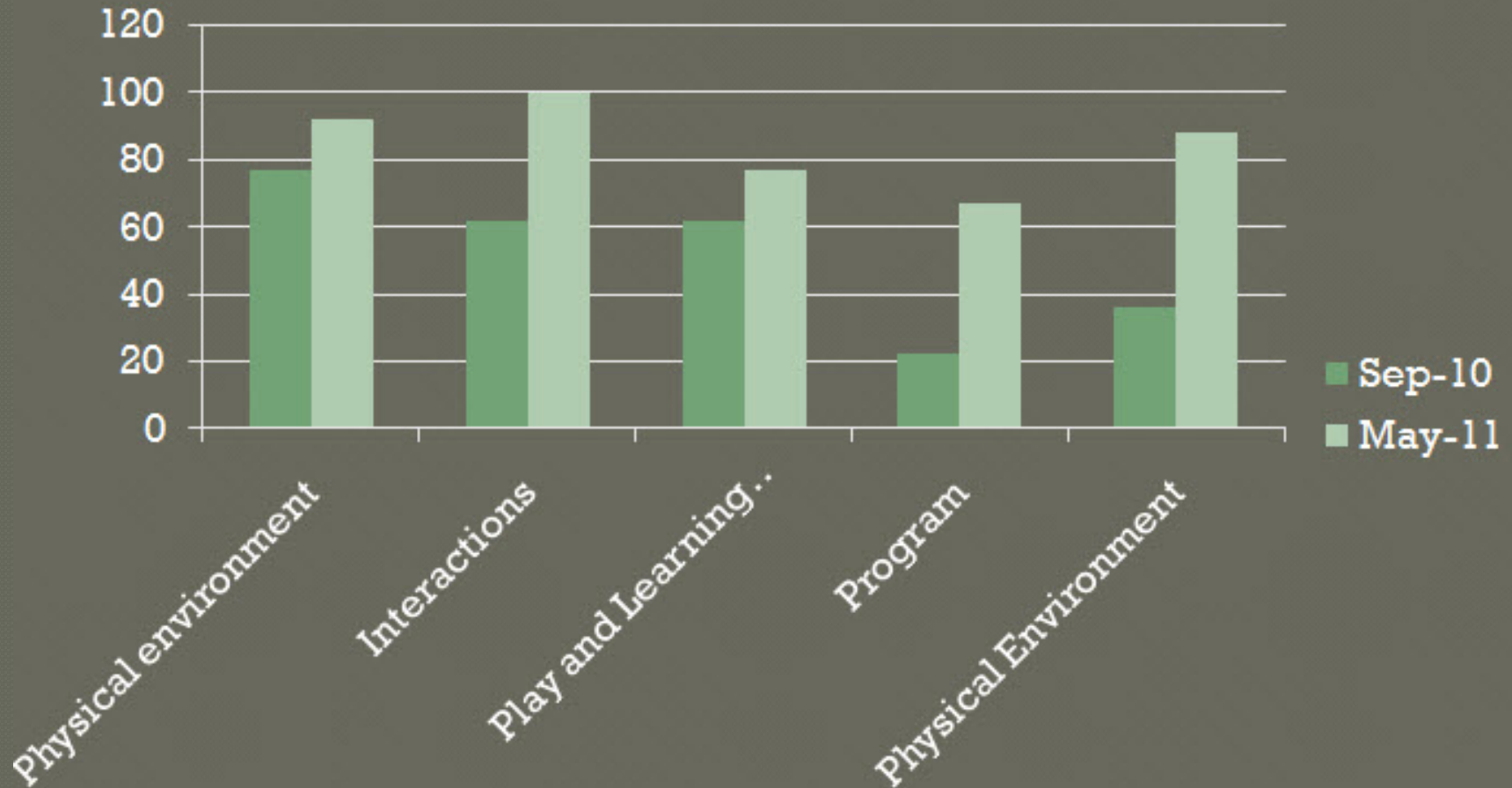


Successes

- Increased POEMS scores in all 5 Domains.
- Collaborated with other agencies including Head Start and the Nature Collaborative
- Increased nature experiences for children



Seven Trees Poems Results



Outdoor festival At Parkway site



Champions For Leadership

- Gain confidence
- Network with other COE employees
- Take risks



Final thoughts

"As children observe, reflect, record, and share nature's patterns and rhythms, they are participating in a process that promotes scientific and ecological awareness, problem solving, and creativity."

Deb Matthews Hensley, early childhood consultant

