

Our Impact

Clinical and therapeutic staff at client sites often report that their youth make critical advances during our programs. As a result, some of our partners have worked with us for over two decades.

"When The Nature Connection is here, the behavioral issues go away. I've seen it. The program is powerful medicine because it grounds [the children] to nature and to themselves, and connects them to each other through the animals."

Erica Nazzaro

The Home for Little Wanderers



"We know the children and staff grow each time you come to the unit. The children—in a time of hardship—are reminded of their strength and capacity for change."

Nancy Rappaport, MD

The Cambridge Hospital



"We have seen our population of adolescent girls blossom and grow with the program.... Many of them cannot fully verbalize their feelings. We find that their work with animals and the environment...is essential to their social skill development, and runs parallel to the intensive therapeutic treatment received at our school."

Jessica Palardy, LMHC

Clinician, Walden Street School



"The Nature Connection's program affects children in subtle and remarkable ways. Most of our kids have two things in common: they struggle to understand how to empathize and get along with other children and they love animals. Your use of a handicapped animal in demonstrations as a metaphor for the struggles our kids face is brilliant. One little girl proclaimed on a recent program that for the handicapped finch, life may have taken away the bird's ability to hold its head up but gave back the gift of singing. "I may have bipolar disorder, but I can still sing."

Barbara O'Connell, Respite Care Program Director

NFI, Massachusetts, Inc.

