

A Pilot Environmental Literacy Program at MacEwan University

Exploring Ecosystem Relationships
Through Story, Play, and Design

Mikoto Frank

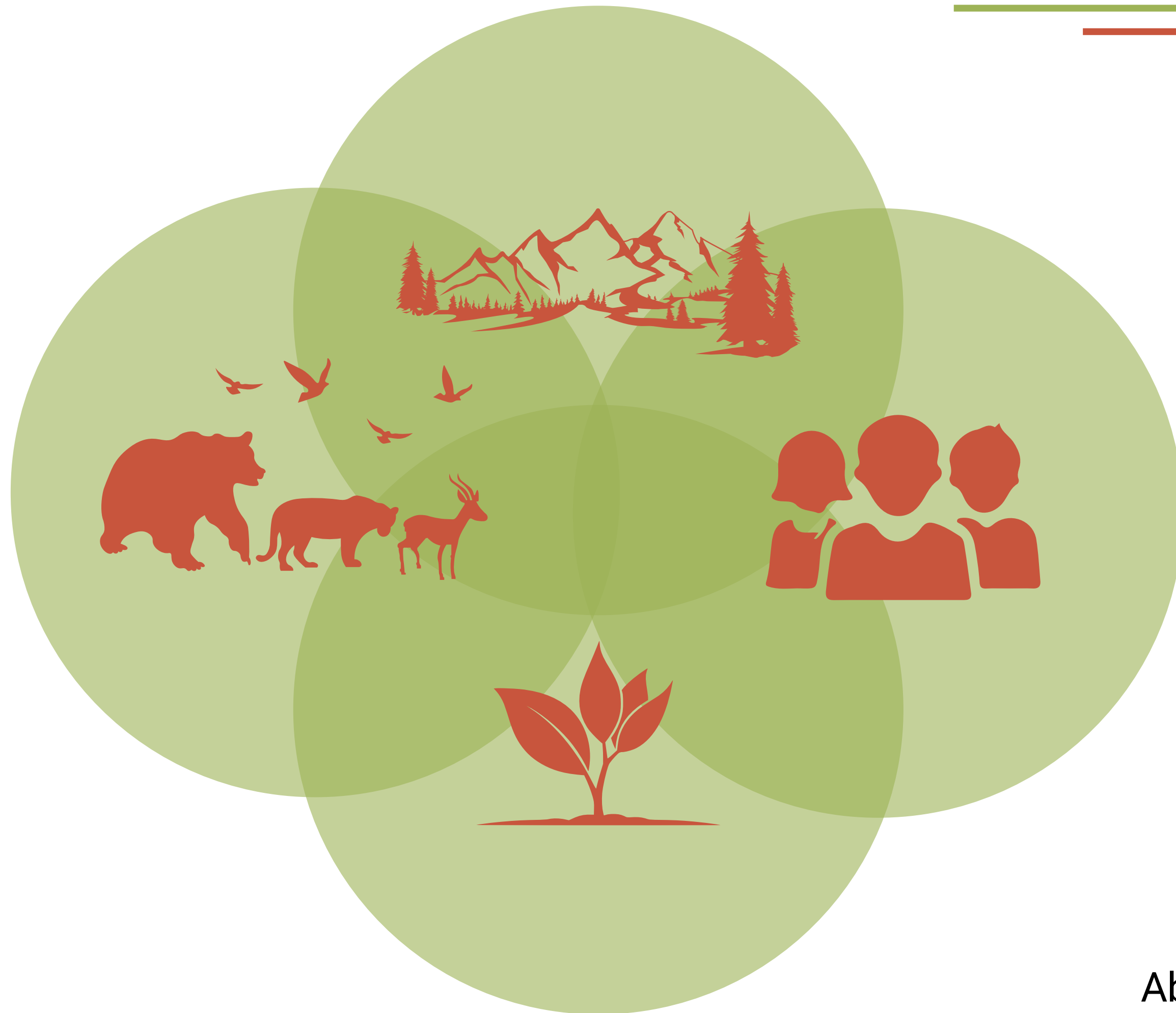
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Department of Early Learning and Curriculum
Studies



GRATITUDE

- Alberta Innovates Summer Research Studentship
- Children, families, educators, and community organizations
- Dr. Isabelle Sperano, Department of Design
- Office of Sustainability
- CanPlay Lab research assistants
- Faculty mentor, Dr. Ozlem Cankaya



ONE HEALTH EDUCATION

Abia et al., 2025; Ardoin & Bowers, 2020

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Environmental education has taken various forms in early childhood education.
- One Health has not yet been widely adopted.
- This research extends MacEwan's sustainability efforts to young children.



Acharibasam & McVittie, 2023; Hermet et al., 2026

RESEARCH QUESTION



How does participation in an interactive environmental literacy and play program influence how children understand environmental relationships?

METHODS AND PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Phase 1

Pre-Interview

Phase 2

StoryWalk at
MacEwan

Phase 3

Lesson on Pollinators
and Flowers

Phase 4

Play Session



Photo consent was granted by families and community organizations.

DATA CODING

Biotic
Elements

Biotic
Interaction

Abiotic
Elements

Abiotic
Interaction

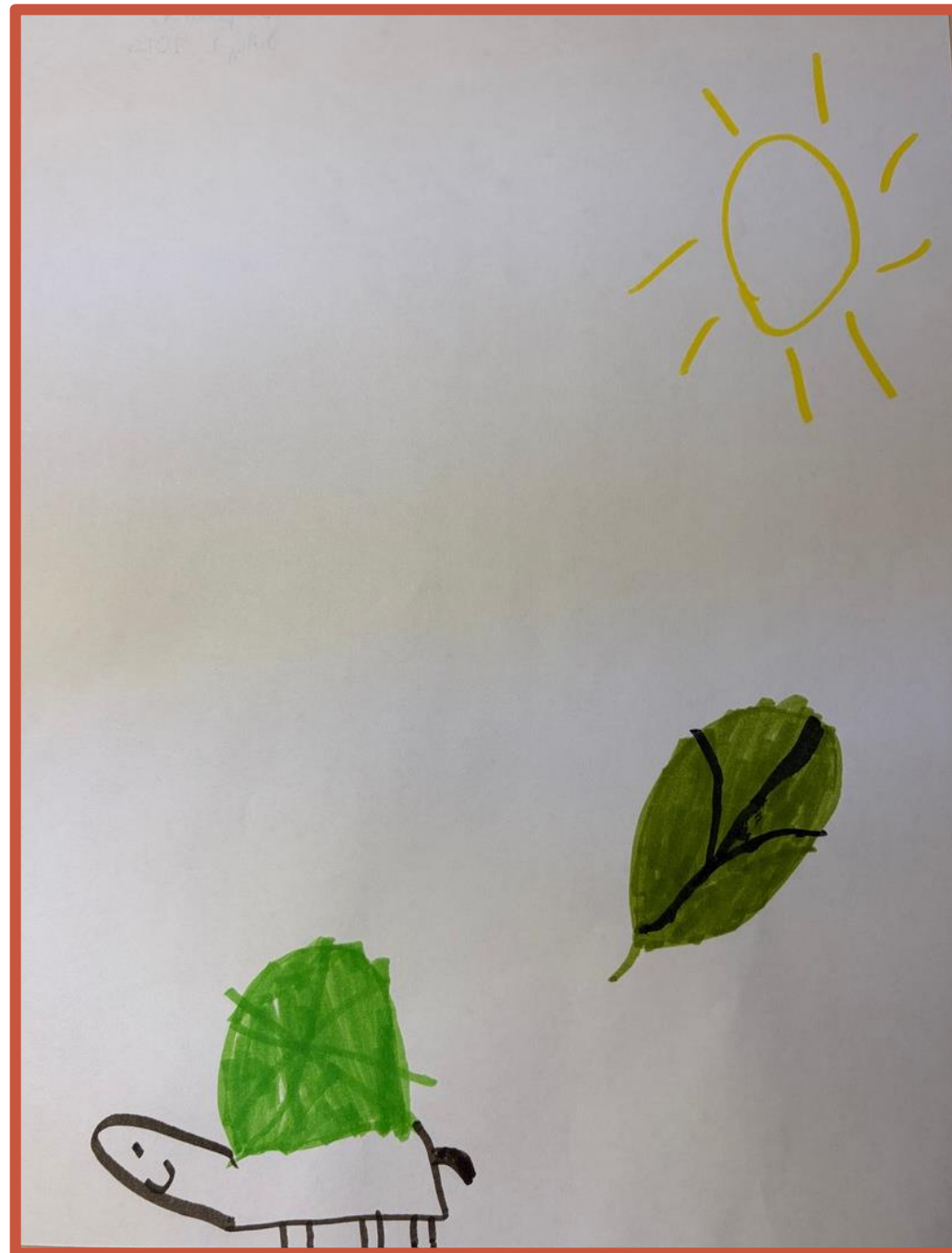
Human
Elements

Human
Interaction

Habitat
Classification

Unrelated
Elements

**Pre-
Program**



**Post-
Presentation**



Flowers et al., 2015; Pozo-Muñoz et al., 2015; Warner & Urban-Rich, 2026

EXPECTED RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Ongoing analysis of interviews, drawings, and play sessions
- Results will provide insight into children's developing understanding of interconnected ecosystems.



Thank You!

References and Image Credits



Contact Information



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