



Children, Families, and Nature in the 21st Century: *A Multidisciplinary Approach*





The mission of the Chicago Zoological Society
is to inspire conservation leadership
by connecting people with wildlife and nature.



What is a Family Play Zoo?





































“The experience of childhood is increasingly urban. Over half the world’s people – including more than a billion children – now live in cities and towns.” – United Nations special report, *Children in an Urban World: The State of the World’s Children*, 2012





Questions Driving the Development of the Hamill Family Play Zoo

- What is known about developing connections to nature and inspiring action?
- How can this be applied within Children's Zoos?



Conservation Psychology is...

The scientific study of the reciprocal relationships between humans and the rest of nature, with a particular focus on how to encourage conservation of the natural world. (*Saunders, 2003*)



Significant life experiences for adult conservation behavior *(Chawla, 1998)*



































































































