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LESSONS FROM THE EARTH

Micro Level: Empathy (ages 3-6)

1. How do animals feel when they are sick? Do you think that they know when they are sick? How do you know whether a person is feeling ill?

2. What do you think an animal's emotions are like? Are animals capable of experiencing emotions such as happiness, sadness, or fear?

3. How might an animal's emotions affect its behavior? Can you think of any examples of animals displaying emotional responses, such as crying or cowering?

4. Is it possible to interpret an animal's emotions accurately, or are animals simply unpredictable and difficult to understand?

Lessons from the Earth

The way a building is designed influences the way people feel about it—whether it be children, students, or the elderly who visit the campus. The way buildings are designed and constructed can have a profound impact on the people who use them.

Lessons for Sustainable Architecture:

1. Use building and operational materials that are sustainably harvested or produced building products.

2. Orient buildings to maximize natural ventilation and solar gain.

3. Design buildings to be adaptable for various uses and over their lifetime.

4. Design buildings to minimize the amount of materials used in construction.

5. Minimize the use of recycled and resource-efficient materials, such as certified forestry products, and locally grown and/or locally processed building products.

6. Incorporate solar hot water and waste-water treatment systems into all buildings, and use captured and gray water for non-potable purposes.

7. Orient buildings to maximize natural ventilation and solar-gain systems.

8. Minimize daylight with energy-efficient lighting.

9. Use building and operational materials that are maintenance free, do not off-gas, and have a low embodied energy.

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