Day 1 - September 10
Green Event and ‘Starling magic’

12:00 – 18:30
Welcome and check in at the City Hall Square – Rådhuspladsen – in Copenhagen.

Day 2 - September 11
Conference Opening and site visits in Copenhagen

Venue: Fællessalen, Christiansborg Palace, Rigsdagsgården

08:00 Registration and coffee/tea
09:00 Welcome to the conference
Helle Nebelong, President of Danish Playground Association and member of the Nature Action Collaborative for Children Leadership Team

09:15 Welcome to Copenhagen and Denmark
Today’s hostess: Mrs. Christine Antorini, Danish Minister for Children and Education

09:30 Welcome to Malmö and Sweden
Lari Pitka-Kangas, Deputy Mayor, Urban Ecology (Green Party) City of Malmö, Sweden

09:40 Children and nature: why they need each other, and how we can bring them together
Keynote: Tim Gill, writer, researcher, and consultant, UK.

10:20 Break: Coffee/tea, and refreshments

10:45 Nature offers great experiences
Mrs. Ida Aukén, Danish Minister for the Environment

11:00 Grounding Nature-Based Learning
Theresa Schilhab, associate professor, Aarhus University, Denmark.

11:30 School ground greening and benefits for children – recent research findings from Malmö
Märit Jansson, Senior Lecturer, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU in Alnarp, Sweden.

12:00 Short presentations referring to the afternoon’s site visits
Inger Lerstrup, PhD-student, tttUniversity of Copenhagen: Forest kindergarten
Gorm Friiborg, MPA: Copenhagen School Gardens
Klaus Nedergaard, Manager, Regnbuen: Adventure Playground
Frank Olesen, educational leader and Nature Interpreter, City of Copenhagen: Education for Sustainable Development

12:30 Departure from Christiansborg.
12:30 – 16:00 Four parallel site visits and short presentations.

Day 3 - September 12
Four parallel tours in Malmö

11:10 Out All Week Long
Olav B. Lyklyt, associate professor, Queen Maud University College, Trondheim, Norway

11:40 Group discussions
The discussions will be based on the relevant themes and issues that we come across during the conference. We spread out into groups of interest. Each group prepares an outcome for the plenary session (a mind map, short presentation, or similar).

12:40 Lunch
You are welcome to continue the discussions during lunch – otherwise just enjoy the meal prepared by The Copenhagen House of Food

13:40 Plenary session
Plenary session led by Åsa Hellström and Marc Veekamp.
Each group gives a short presentation of the outcome of their discussion.

Based on this, we would like to have a general discussion about your opportunities for implementing nature-based initiatives for children in your own organization/home country. Which challenges do you meet? Do you feel inspired and well-prepared after this conference? Is there a particular ‘Nordic’ way of connecting children with nature and if so, can it become more widespread?

14:20 Walk to the City Hall Square

14:45 Closing ceremony at the Copenhagen City Hall
By Tobias Stax, Ph.D., COO, Department of Children and Education

Afterwards we will enjoy the famous City Hall pancakes, and you will be able to get a special souvenir to bring home from the City Hall Square event as well.

Goodbye!
Organisation:
This conference is organised by several organisations in collaboration across the Øresund Region. The main actors are the Danish Playground Association (NGO), the City of Malmö, the City of Copenhagen, and the University of Copenhagen.

The conference is the third of its kind arranged within the network of the Nature Action Collaborative for Children under the World Forum Foundation.

The committee
From the Danish Playground Association:
Helle Nebelong
Klaus Nedergaard

From the City of Malmö:
Petra Bengtsson
Charlotte Bärhner
Emma Crawley
Åsa Hellström

From the City of Copenhagen:
Lene Nielsen
Frank Olesen
Gorm Friiborg

From the University of Copenhagen:
Inger Lerstrup
Anne Dahl Refshauge

Webmaster:
Marie Kielsgaard

All-round secretary:
Michala Ryttergaard

Participants in the Green Event and 'Starling magic'
Artist from NaturÆstetik: Marianne Bramsen (SE/DK)

The Danish Playground Association (DK)
The City of Copenhagen (DK)
The adventure playgrounds in Hvidovre and Rødovre (DK)
The University of Copenhagen (DK)
The Copenhagen House of Food (DK)
Gerlev Play Park (DK)
Sea-U (SE)
Odla i Stan/Cultivation in the city (SE)

And children from different daycares and after school clubs in Denmark and Sweden.

We want to share and discuss current Nordic actions and international research with children’s ambassadors from around the globe. We advocate for the importance of connecting children with nature.

Welcome and enjoy:
- Presentations
- Site visits
- Plenary sessions
- Social experiences

Nordic children get out in nature regardless of season and weather. Being in nature is essential and nature is both challenging and enjoyable if you are familiar with it.

Denmark, Sweden and Norway have since long worked with adventure and nature playgrounds, school gardens and green school grounds, forest and outdoor preschools, public manned playgrounds, education for sustainable development, marine environment exploration and several other nature based initiatives for children.