



EYFS Forest School Intent, Implementation, Impact

Intent - Why do we include Forest School into our curriculum in Reception?

Forest School is a child-centred inspirational learning process that offers opportunities for holistic growth, social, emotional, spiritual, physical and intellectual learning through regular experiences in the outdoors. All our sessions encourage children to use their imaginations, grow in confidence and develop skills across all areas of the EYFS Framework. They have the opportunity to take supported risks, develop their play, and gain social skills in a safe, non-judgemental nurturing environment. Forest sessions develop children's confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting; solving problems, building self-belief and promoting resilience. Children have frequent opportunities to enhance their social skills, develop teamwork and collaborative learning.

Implementation: How will we achieve this?

Each session will build progressively upon the skills and knowledge children acquire, with the aim that they will know more, do more and remember more as the year advances. Forest School Guidance suggests there are six key principles that shape and govern the delivery of our woodland sessions. The six principles are:

- Regular sessions, rather than one-off or infrequent visits; a cycle of planning, observation, adaptation and review links each session.
- It takes place in a woodland or natural environment to support the development of a lifelong relationship between the learner and the natural world.
- It uses a range of learner-centred processes to create a community for being, development and learning.
- It aims to promote the holistic development of all involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners.
- It offers learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves.
- It is run by qualified Forest School practitioners, who continuously maintain and develop their professional practice.

Our Teaching Approach

Children in Reception participate in Forest School every other week. This ensures children have opportunities for sustained periods of study and have time to embed and enhance their learning. Detailed planning supports learning, ensures continuity and carefully plans for progression and depth. A range of enhanced continuous provision within the woodland is always available and children have time to explore,

create and investigate through child-initiated periods of learning. High quality resources and materials are provided to support and extend their learning.

There are five key themes our learning will be inspired by:

- Using Knots
- Creating Shelters
- Woodwork tools
- Campfire Cooking
- Exploring nature and animals

Throughout Forest School sessions, children will be offered the opportunity to engage in a variety of different activities each involving the study, awareness and use of the natural environment. Our Forest School promotes child-led learning – allowing the child to choose which activities they engage with whilst offering progression in the development of skills and experiences.

Curriculum Impact - How will we know that our children are achieving?

The impact of Forest School sessions will be measured by the progress children make across all areas of the Early Years Framework. Children will also have opportunities to discuss their learning (pupil voice) and contribute to an on-going Floor Book showing progression and celebrating success.



EYFS Forest School Long Term Overview

Throughout each woodland session, children will have access to a range of continuous provision areas. These will include, but not limited to: Mud kitchen, construction, mark making, role play and small world. These will be enhanced to extend children's learning throughout the year. There will also be a range of adult-initiated activities each session, which will be linked to a key theme. These will build progressively upon children's prior knowledge and skills.

	Autumn One	Autumn Two	Spring One	Spring Two	Summer One	Summer Two
Forest Themes	All About Me	Celebrations	Polar Regions	Growing & Changing	Heading Outside	The Sea
Woodcraft		Whittling sticks using peeler for Christmas gnomes. Palm Drill for wood disc tree decorations.		Use a saw to cut logs for shelters	Nails & hammers to create string art work	Fishing Rods by cutting a stop knot
Shelters	Den building using logs		Create a Birds Nest Shelter	Create mini-shelters using a stick ridge line	Ridge Line Shelters using tarpaulins	Erect a storm shelter
Fire	Fire Safety Toasting Marshmallows	Toffee apples Boiling a kettle	Making Popcorn	Cooking pancakes	Baking Bread	Produce a spark using a flint & Steel Hot bananas
Nature	Self-Portraits	Seasonal Changes, conkers Nature crowns	RSPB birdwatch	Planting seeds & vegetables Growing Garden	Mini-Beast hunting Natural habitats	Printing with leaves & flowers using hammers on fabric
Ropes	Make Fairy Wands Teddy Ziplines	Rope swings for teddies / children using timber hitch & cow knots	Valentines Day Friendship bracelets using a half hitch knot	Create a musical xylophone using cow hitch & timber hitches		Rope bridges using two half hitches
						

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