



Warwickshire



Forest Schools

Developing relationships with the natural world



www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

What is the Forest School approach to learning?

Implemented in Sweden in the 1950's and developed throughout other Scandinavian and European Countries, the Forest School ethos is an inspirational process, that offers all learners regular opportunities to achieve, develop confidence and self-esteem, through hands on learning experiences in a local woodland or natural environment (Knight, 2013).

The forest school principles are:

1. It is a long term process with regular sessions, planning, observations and reviews.
2. Takes place in woodland or natural space to develop relationship with natural world.
3. Promotes holistic development – boosting self-esteem, confidence, independence and creativity
4. Learner takes risks.
5. Run by qualified practitioners.
6. Learner-centred development and learning.
7. There is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing.

Forest school sessions are linked to learning from the EYFS to KS3 and 4, and for a more tailored package can be adapted around your class topic. The practise also links to the Play Principles and Every Child Matters.

Child Care theories that support Forest School Practise include, John Dewey, Montessori, Erickson, Piaget, Froebel, and Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligences.



Warwickshire

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

Brandon Marsh Nature Centre
Brandon Lane, Coventry, CV3 3GW

☎ 02476 308974 ✉ v.dunne@wkwt.org.uk

Illustrations © 2016 Ann Scott

We offer a 10 week programme covering the following activities:



1

BOUNDARIES, FOREST SCHOOL RULES, INTRODUCTIONS AND SITE EXPLORATION.

We will introduce ourselves and the Forest School ethos, then discuss dangers we may encounter and the Forest School rules to keep us safe. Children will explore the new environment and the boundaries, play games and conclude with a base camp discussion of things they'd like to do over the following weeks.



2

RE-VISIT FOREST SCHOOL RULES AND ETHOS, FOREST SCHOOL GAMES AND SITE EXPLORATION.

Further discuss Forest School ethos and begin to feel comfortable in the site area. Play some Forest School games that promote further exploring of the natural world whilst promoting teamwork and confidence.



3

RE-VISIT PREVIOUS WEEK, NATURE AWARENESS (PLANT ID, HABITATS, MINIBEASTS*).

Now comfortable in the surroundings and with basic awareness of the natural world we will further investigate the forest school area based upon current class learning, this could incorporate minibeast hunting, searching for habitats, identifying plants within the site or observing the seasons.

*dependant on class topic

4

RE-VISIT PREVIOUS WEEK, CONTINUATION OF NATURE AWARENESS.

To embed the previous weeks learning and self-achievements the pupils will be able to continue their activities of choice.

5

DEN BUILDING AND BASIC KNOTS.

Children will learn about the need for shelter to survive and how to make dens using natural resources that they must find. Pupils will also learn how to use waterproof tarpaulin sheets to aid their shelter and in small rotating groups learn a basic knot that can be used when attaching two sticks

WE ALSO OFFER A TWO HOUR TASTER SESSION FOR YOUR GROUP IN WHITTLING AND DEN BUILDING.



6

DEN BUILDING AND USING KNOTS IN DENS.

As a continuation of the previous week, children will be able to enhance their dens for ultimate survival, continue their teamwork and those who did not get chance to learn the knot will have a turn. Children will then be shown how their knot can be used to attach a stick to a tree to make a better den.

7

TOOLS – WHITTLE STICKS FOR TOASTING AND IMAGINATIVE PLAY.

In small groups, children will learn how to whittle using potato peelers, they can whittle sticks that may be used for toasting bread in our final week or can make a stick to play with however they wish. Children who are not learning to whittle can chose to carry on den building, exploring the nature or adopting child-initiated play.

8

TOOLS – WHITTLE STICKS FOR TOASTING AND IMAGINATIVE PLAY.

Children who did not get chance to whittle the previous week may learn this week, and those who want another go can do. Children who are not learning to whittle can chose to carry on den building, exploring the nature or adopting child-initiated play.



9

RE-VISIT FAVOURITE ACTIVITY FROM SESSIONS, INTRODUCE FIRE RULES AHEAD OF FINAL SESSION.

Ahead of the final session children can continue their learning journey and revisited any activity they chose. We will also discuss the final week's fire, what to expect, rules and play a game that will help us practise fire safety.



10

FIRE LIGHTING AND COOKING TOAST.

In the final week, children will get the opportunity to try lighting a fire with a fire steel, they will then collect wood for the fire and reflect on their Forest School experience whilst toasting bread on the fire.



Session Costs

A two hour taster session
up to 20 children **£100 +vat**

Ten week block of two hour sessions
up to 20 children **£800 +vat**

How to Book

To find out more or make a booking, please contact:

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Head Office
Brandon Marsh Nature Centre,
Brandon Lane, Coventry, CV3 3GW

☎ Brandon Marsh 02476 308974
☎ The Parkridge Centre 0121 704 0768