



Forest School

1. FS is an ethos, an approach to learning, not only a place to go. Forest school is based on national FS principles and promoting confidence, independence and self-esteem by making sure everything about a Forest school session is accessible and achievable by all.

2. Forest school ethos is based on application of a number of child theorists such as

- John Dewey
- Piaget
- Montessori
- Howard gardener
- Vygotsky
- Learning theories
- Nature connection Theories

Learning needs long blocks of open ended time, learning is more powerful when it is a real-life learning experience, real tools that work, responsibility given to children. Understanding how a child learns is vitally important to successfully achieve outcomes and goals.

3. Forest school is based on its own set of pedagogical values and beliefs:

- Children want to learn
- Children respond well to responsibility and ownership
- Children need to be outdoors
- Children want to be listened to
- Children want to explore and be trusted
- Children want time to complete their learning
- Children want recognition
- Children want to feel safe and loved
- Children want to feel happy and have fun

These values should link to school values.

4. FS links to the curriculum and all links shown in session plans.

5. FS has its own individual skills set that is not achievable in a classroom setting

Practical – Tools, fire inc. safety, physical development, creativity in the natural environment and the use of imagination.

Personal – Initiative, resilience, resourcefulness, cooperation, risk taking, problem solving, respectfulness, responsibility, caring, reflectiveness and many more.....

6. Evidence Gathering for Forest school

Planning FS sessions; Child Observations at every session; Leuven scales; Evaluation of FS sessions is based on the curriculum areas met, behaviour and attitude seen, and personal development.

Intent, Implementation, Impact is used is a cycle of improvement and development.



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