



BILLINGSMOORE FARM, BUTTERLEIGH, NR EXETER, DEVON. 07816146554

Dear Head teacher and teachers.

Please find a brief information pack about 'Wild Wanderers' Forest School.

Wild Wanderers is about promoting outdoor learning to schools, education advisors, children and young people's organisations and others that are in a position to arrange opportunities for children to benefit from Forest School and developmental play and learning in the outdoors. Forest School is about children and young people building self esteem and independence through exploring and experiencing the natural world.

Forest School is a long term programme delivered by trained practitioners within a natural environment (not necessarily a Forest). Our aim is to 'extend and enhance opportunities for children to develop their social, emotional and life skills, and grow in self confidence through the establishment of Forest School Programmes'. Each Forest School programme is tailored to meet the needs of individuals within that group and is continuously developed as the children/young people grow in confidence, skills and understanding. Team work skills are developed through games and activities. Individual skills and self esteem area heightened throughout activities such as hide and seek, shelter building, tool skills, lighting fires, back bush cooking, environmental art. The list is endless. Sessions are designed around a theme and seasons; themes are sometimes subtle such as evolving or exploring the site. Many areas of the National Curriculum Foundation to KS4 are intrinsically covered, in the Forest School experience without the programme being curriculum led.

The ethos of Forest School allows learners the time and space to develop skills, interests and understanding through practical, hands-on experiences. It also allows practitioners to step back and observe the children/young people in order to then encourage and inspire individuals to achieve through careful scaffolding and facilitating.

Forest School has been rapidly developing in the UK, where trained and accredited Forest School leaders devise a learning program tailored to children's interests and individual needs. Children are allowed to work at their own pace and the repetitive nature and routine that is embedded allows the children to build their confidence and self-esteem. The philosophy of Forest Schools is to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through positive outdoor experiences.



By participating in engaging, motivating and achievable tasks and activities in a woodland environment each participant has an opportunity to develop intrinsic motivation, sound emotional and social skills. These, through self awareness can be developed to reach personal potential and also shown that children with emotional, behavioural and learning difficulties especially benefit from the Forest School approach.

Forest Schools has demonstrated success with children of all ages who visit the same local woodlands on a regular basis and through play, who have the opportunity to learn about the natural environment, how to handle risks and most importantly to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others. Forest School programmes run throughout the year, for about 36 weeks, going to the woods in all weathers (except for high winds). Children use full sized tools, play, learn boundaries of behaviour; both physical and social, establish and grow in confidence, self-esteem and become self motivated.

So 'Wild Wanderers' Forest Schools will aim to develop:

- Self Awareness
- Self Regulation Improve concentration, behaviour and interest in learning that can be transferred back into the classroom.
- Intrinsic motivation
- Empathy
- Good social communication skills
- Independence
- A positive mental attitude, self-esteem and confidence

Forest School, through its application of Accelerated Learning techniques creates a unique learning vehicle that is used to encourage a range of individuals, community groups and larger organisations to utilise open space for interactive play, health, recreation and personal development uses.

Children, and more and more adults, need time to thoroughly explore their thoughts, feelings and relationships. This time and reflective practice develops understanding of the world, the environment and everything within it through the use of emotions, imagination and senses.

Outcomes:

The outcomes for Forest School fit perfectly with Every Child Matters and also contribute to meeting Agenda 21 sustainability targets.

Children and young people attending Forest Schools will:

- Be healthy.
- Stay Safe.
- Enjoy and achieve.
- Make a positive contribution.
- Achieve economic well-being.
- Learn to live sustainably

“Forest School is an inspirational process that offers children and young people opportunities to achieve, develop confidence and self esteem, through hands on learning experiences in a local woodland environment.”

National definition: by Forest School (England) Network

Myself and team leaders can cater for any size group of young adults. We can take small groups, class groups or whole school groups. We are happy to teach Forest school activities at the site or at school.

To discuss more about what we offer please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards.

Phillipa Chinn.