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What is Forest School?

Forest School is a system of learning in an outdoor classroom through a range of practical skills and achievable tasks which build confidence, self-esteem and independence. Developed in Sweden in the 1950's, the benefits of Forest School are internationally recognized for children and young people of all ages and abilities.

Our programme will consist of:

- Six or more sessions in a local woodland with the same group of 12-15 youngsters
- A stimulating and innovative learning programme linked to individual learning styles
- Activities linked to seasonal change
- The use of tools to work with natural materials

Participants will:

- Develop and share new skills
- Grow in self- confidence and self esteem
- Be independent
- Assess and manage risk
- Problem solve
- Explore and discover the natural world
- Grow in environmental awareness

“ Our students learnt many new skills and how to work as a team. Their self-esteem improved with the achievable tasks set ”

Quality Badge awarded by



What do teachers think of our Forest School programme?

“All the activities provided fitted well with the learning abilities, age and learning styles of each child. Every child achieved”.

“...good for boys with emotional or behavioural difficulties. They very much enjoyed it and were more prepared to engage in class activities”.

“Watching the faces of the children when they had used tools to make something was heart-warming. We had a truly wonderful time”.



© Diana Smith

Staying safe - Forest School offers:

- Sessions led by a qualified and experienced Forest School Leader (Level 3)
- Supported by trained and vetted volunteers
- All staff DBS checked and qualified in outdoor first aid
- High staffing ratios
- Comprehensive risk assessments
- Well maintained tools and equipment
- Opportunities for young people to recognise, assess and manage risk

Forest School encompasses:

- The Early Years Foundation Stage
- National Curriculum Key Stages
- Learning Outside the Classroom
- Every Child Matters

For further information, please visit:

hiwwt.org.uk/learn-discover

How to get involved

To make a booking or find out more about Forest School with Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, please contact your local Education Officer:

➤	Blashford Lakes (Ringwood)	01425 472760	BlashfordLakes@hiwwt.org.uk
➤	North Hampshire (Basingstoke)	01256 381103	NorthernEducation@hiwwt.org.uk
➤	Swanwick Lakes (Bursledon)	01489 570240	SwanwickLakes@hiwwt.org.uk
➤	Testwood Lakes (Totton)	02380 667929	TestwoodLakes@hiwwt.org.uk