



# WOODLAND VENTURE

## **An Overview**

### **What Is Forest School?**

*“Forest School 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.” Forest School is a specialised approach that sits within and compliments the wider context of outdoor learning.”*

## What do the children do at Forest Schools?

Every program is tailored towards each group taking into consideration factors such as:

- the age of the children
- the maturity of the group
- any prior experience
- the knowledge of the group about the environment
- any relevant learning the children are taking part in at school. e.g. related topics in Science, History, Art...
- desired learning goals.



For children in the Early Years and Key Stage 1, many of the activities are about exploring the natural environment and using the natural resources available in the woodland at that time of year. These activities include the following:

- finding and identifying leaves
- making pictures of objects or people
- clay faces – bringing the woods alive
- making animal dens
- making fairy homes or villages
- making forest crowns/hats



Where possible these activities will be themed in a program of study that complements the learning journey the children are following in their classroom setting.

Forest Schools in the Early Years covers all of the Characteristics of Effective Learning and can include all of the prime and specific areas. At Forest School the children practise listening and speaking skills. We develop an understanding of human faces and the use of different materials to make a picture. The children use lots of physical skills, both fine motor and gross motor e.g. walking, climbing, using sticks, tying rope and balancing. The children develop their collaboration skills and persevere to finding ways to

solve problems. We encourage them to show curiosity about the world and use our senses to explore the woods.

Being outdoors always inspires children and enables them to learn in the natural world in a bigger scale.



Searching for snake at his log pile house.



Story time around the campfire



Making the woods a friendlier place by bringing our trees alive with clay faces.



Fire lighting demonstration





We create links with curriculum subjects such as History focusing on the Romans, Vikings or Celts. We follow the Science curriculum looking at tree and plant classification as well as; reactions and changing states of materials, habitats, life cycles, food chains and risk management.



As the children develop confidence in their own abilities and the environment, the focus of the activity changes to stretch their



imagination, teach new skills and raise their self confidence.



In the latter years of KS2 and KS3 the children are introduced to different methods of fire lighting; 'fire by friction' and 'Flint and Steel'. They are taught

how to use a Kelly Kettle to boil water to make hot chocolate and toast marshmallows. Tools are also introduced starting with palm drills and as confidence grows to saws, calving knives, spoon knives, bill hooks and axes.



Some of the projects children work on include the following;

- Name badges
- Key ring dongles
- Kazoos
- Mallets
- Tent pegs
- Wooden spoons



Through these activities the children learn a new set of skills and also learn that they can be successful in different ways. This raises their self esteem, self confidence, overall well being and knowledge of the world around them.

### **Team Building**

We have developed a series of team building activities. These activities will develop: group communication skills, planning, analysing, persevering and resilience,

These activities can be incorporated into a bespoke program for your school or run as a one off day for children or staff.

### **How can you assess the impact of Forest Schools?**

The most common method of assessing the impact Forest Schools has had on a child is to use the Leavens Scale of Well-being and Involvement. The children can be assessed before the program starts, during and at the end both in the Forest School setting and in the classroom setting.

### **How could it work for my school?**

Usually the children attending Forest Schools will take part in a series of 6 sessions over a short term. Forest School is most affective with groups of approximately 15 children who are accompanied by a staff member they are familiar with. With classes of 30 it often works best if half the class attend in the morning and then the other half attend in the afternoon.

## **What can Woodland Venture Forest School offer you?**

- a bespoke program at Priest's Wood in Langton Green
- a bespoke program at your own site subject to a suitability check
- a one off bespoke session
- construction of a fire circle
- help in securing outdoor learning resources.

## **What do we get for our money?**

Woodland Venture is headed by a qualified teacher with 13 years experience in schools.

- fully Trained Forest School Leader (Level 3)
- enhanced DBS checked
- independent insurance
- all reasonable resources for sessions including tools and hot chocolate are provided

## **How much will it cost?**

Costs are determined by the level of activity, extra resources that are required and distance of travel but as a general guide.

Morning session 9:00am – 12:00am	£150
Afternoon Session 1:00pm – 3:15pm	£120
All day session 9:00-3:15pm	£250

## What do we do now?

If you are interested in any of the services we offer or have something else you would like to request please get in touch.

Dan Gillinder – Forest School Leader

[info@woodlandventure.co.uk](mailto:info@woodlandventure.co.uk)



Level 3 qualified Forest School  
Leader status has been verified by the



Qualified practitioner database link:  
[www.forestschoollassociation.org/location/dan-gillinder](http://www.forestschoollassociation.org/location/dan-gillinder)

## About Dan.

Dan is a family man with a son and 4 step-children, ranging in ages from 5 to 19. He has been a Primary School teacher for 13 years working in a range of year groups and leader roles. Prior to his career in teaching Dan worked through a range of roles in outdoor pursuits which include Leadership responsibilities. In his spare time he assists the running of a local Scout Troop. He has completed a Forest School leader course and has been running Forest Schools successfully in partnership with several local schools. With his knowledge of Forest Schools, bush-craft and the new curriculum Dan has much to offer.





WOODLAND  
VENTURE

[www.woodlandventure.co.uk](http://www.woodlandventure.co.uk)

*(Website launching soon)*

[info@woodlandventure.co.uk](mailto:info@woodlandventure.co.uk)

Level 3 qualified Forest School  
Leader status has been verified by the



Qualified practitioner database link:  
[www.forestschoollassociation.org/location/dan-gillinder](http://www.forestschoollassociation.org/location/dan-gillinder)