

Visualizing the differences between Forest Kindergarten and traditional Kindergarten to show the benefits of being in nature

Origin

- why outside? — Broader benefits of kids spending time outside — <https://mailchimp/1539a8e2b6f2/children-nature-network-research-digest-august-2020>
- where did it start? — Location — <https://www.growingwildforestschoolorg/post/the-brief-history-heritage-of-forest-schools-around-the-world>
- who started it?
 - Credentials: what prior knowledge was used in it's development?
 - Beliefs: Did the original teacher subscribe to any specific teaching methods? Waldorf?
- Current offerings
 - where is it currently offered?
 - organizations working to promote it
 - <https://www.forestkindergartenassociation.org/>
 - <https://forestkinder.org/>
 - <https://www.theforestschoolfoundation.org/>
 - Full list: <https://www.theforestschoolfoundation.org/research-resources>

Structure

- Supplies
 - Items (pencil vs. warm coat)
 - Traditional — <https://www.kindergartenworks.com/teacher-tools/kindergarten-school-supply-list/>
 - Forest — <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yJHwaiz-jy8TUxAmvZErc0pXfAgg6tHt0e0L-nc/edit>
 - Cost of supplies - is it more affordable to supply your child for one vs the other?
- Daily Schedule
 - Activities — Reach out to teachers to get a sample school day plan
 - Traditional — Jane Mitchell - set up a phone call
 - Forest — <https://www.merohawke.org/contact-directions/>
 - Hours per day
 - Indoor vs. outdoor time
- Learning Expectations — Curriculum
 - Traditional — <http://www.corestandards.org/wp-content/uploads/ELA-Standards1.pdf>
 - Forest
 - <https://naturalstart.org/feature-stories/how-learning-forest-kindergarten>
 - <https://www.theforestschoolfoundation.org/background-information-history>
- Rules — How strict/structured is the experience?

Outcomes

- Preparation for first grade — Skills needed vs already acquired — <https://www.mdpi.com/2075-4663/7/6/134/html>
- Academic performance — Grades over time
 - <https://research.childrenandnature.org/research-library/results/?h=sJDvdjkD>
 - https://www.childrenandnature.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/CUN_2016SY_Acadout_d7-3.pdf
 - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC495655/>
- Personality Development
 - Confidence/independence
 - Creativity — <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0051474>
- other
 - <https://research.childrenandnature.org/research/learning-outside-the-classroom-can-help-children-develop-important-skills-for-future-success-in-the-workplace/>
 - <https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1003213>