

Outdoor Learning: Introduction



Spending regular time outside the classroom encourages students to work in a different way than in the classroom promoting the development of problem-solving skills, creativity, independence and confidence. There are opportunities for outdoor learning across the curriculum which allow a greater range of subjects to be taught through both classroom-based activities and first-hand experience.

British explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes believes that “There is no such things as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing”. This resource is designed to support Early Years teachers deliver a cross curricular year-round programme of learning outside the classroom. Used together with the subject link document and seasonal and year-round activities there are a range of activities which can be tailored by teachers for their class.

Share photos of your class using the resource throughout the year with us tagging #PMoutdoors to be in with the chance of winning a class set of Bugnoculars.

Email hello@2simple.com to add your outdoor learning ideas to the resource.

What is Outdoor Learning?

Outdoor Learning refers to organised, educational learning in an outdoor setting involving journey-based experiences in which students participate in a variety of adventurous challenges.

- It values direct experience and provides a meaningful contrast to the indoor classroom which many pupils will find more motivating than classroom learning. When properly supported, spending time outside can become a stimulating source of fascination and personal growth for students as well as providing learning breakthroughs.



- It promotes active learning where participants learn through what they do, encounter and discover. Students will learn about the outdoors, themselves and each other, while also learning crucial outdoor skills. Active learning readily develops the learning skills of enquiry, experiment, feedback, reflection, review and cooperative learning.

- It broadens horizons and promotes new interests. There is no limit to the experiences and curiosities that outdoor environments and activities can stimulate. Students frequently discover their own potential, abilities and interests that can often surprise themselves and others.



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What Do People Say About Outdoor Learning?

'Outside, quiet children start to talk more and children who find it hard to be constrained begin to relax. Children need to be outside long enough to feel at home there.' –

Emma Shaw - Founder of Into The Woods Outdoor Nursery

'Earth and sky, woods and fields, lakes and rivers, the mountain and the sea, are excellent schoolmasters, and teach of us more than we can ever learn from books.'

Sir John Lubbock – Author The Pleasures of Life

'Nature breeds curiosity: it helps to grow explorers rather than robots. It reminds us that we are part of something bigger. It grounds us, calms us.'

Dr Ben Palmer-Fry - Educator, Conservation worker, Broadcaster and Rewilder

'If we want children to flourish, to become truly empowered, then let us allow them to love the earth before we ask them to save it.'

David Sobel – Environmentalist and Educator

Benefits of Outdoor Learning



Outdoor learning brings a broad range of benefits to students, including:

- Enhanced personal and social communication skills.
- Increased physical health.
- Enhanced mental and spiritual health.
- Enhanced spiritual, sensory, and aesthetic awareness.
- Ability to assert personal control and increased sensitivity to one's own well-being
- Develops self-esteem, encourages personal responsibility, co-operation with and respect for the needs of others.
- Extends personal horizons through greater appreciation and understanding of the world and its peoples around them.
- Understanding of the need for sustainable relationships between people and their environment.
- Enhanced practical problem solving and teamwork skills.
- Promotes a positive and knowledgeable response towards personal health and wellbeing.
- Develops a deeper relationship with nature.
- Enhanced personal and social development.
- Increased knowledge on how to overcome adversity and increase resilience.
- Contact with the natural world offering children experiences that are unique to the outdoors such as direct contact with the weather and the seasons.
- Playing and learning outside helps children to understand and respect nature, the environment and the interdependence of humans, animals, plants, and their respective lifecycles.

Golden Rules

Golden Rules

- Do not pick anything growing
- Do not put fingers or anything else in mouths
 - Stay within the agreed boundaries
 - Don't run
- When using equipment/activity areas follow the rules and instructions
- Drag sticks and point downwards when walking around each other
 - Follow the individual tool rules
 - Respect each other, animals and plants
- Inform your teacher if you find sharp/dangerous objects
- Inform your teacher immediately if you feel ill or are injured

Dates for the Diary

- ✓ Wild Koala Day - May 3rd
- ✓ Outdoor Classroom Day - November 3rd 2022
- ✓ In 2022, Schools Tree Day is Friday 29th July and National Tree Day is Sunday 31st July
- ✓ Aussie Backyard Bird Count 17th - 23rd October 2022
- ✓ Save A Spider Day – 14th March 2023
- ✓ World Frog Day – 20th March 2023

Outdoor Learning Using Purple Mash

<u>Specific Activities</u>	<u>Topic Resources</u>
Birdsong Matching	Seasons
Physical and Human Features Checklist	Minibeasts
Bark Matching Game	Plants
Environment Thought shower	Habitats
Bird Identification	Maps
Mini Beast Hunt	Environment
Pond Dipping Identification	
Rain Recording Sheet	
Mini Beasts 2 Count Pictogram	
Mini Beasts Pictogram Quiz	
Mini Beasts Database	
Mini Beasts Quiz	
Branching Database Leaves	
Leaves 2Quiz	
Area Problem Solving	
Angles Outdoors	
Winter - Scavenger Hunt	
Spring - Scavenger Hunt	
Summer - Scavenger Hunt	
Autumn - Scavenger Hunt	
Tree Identification	

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