Forest Schools and the EYPP

To find out more about forest schools, visit: http://www.forestschools.com/

Why is having a trained Forest School practitioner a useful way to use your EYPP money?

- Forest Schools promote **holistic development** and are a really good way to develop physical skills, communication skills and personal, social and emotional skills.
- Forest Schools use **accelerated learning** techniques, therefore allowing you to accelerate the progress of individual children and potentially 'close the gap'.
- Forest Schools are an effective way of engaging and inspiring children, particularly those who don’t thrive in a classroom environment. The **positive attitude to learning** that is developed through Forest Schools sets children up to succeed later in life.

What Are Forest Schools?

Taken from http://www.forestschools.com/what-are-forest-schools/

‘A Forest School is an innovative educational approach to outdoor play and learning.’

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.

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.
Forest Schools aim to develop:
- Self Awareness
- Self Regulation
- Intrinsic motivation
- Empathy
- Good social communication skills
- Independence
- A positive mental attitude, self-esteem and confidence

Forest Schools, through the application of Accelerated Learning techniques, create a unique learning vehicle. Children, and more and more adults, need time to thoroughly explore their thoughts, feelings and relationships. Time and reflective practice at Forest School develops understanding of the world, the environment and everything within it through the use of emotions, imagination and senses.

How to begin using Forest School to support children at your setting:

Level 3: To run Forest School sessions you need a practitioner with a Forest School leader qualification (Level 3). The Level 3 qualification involves a training week, an assessment week and completion of a portfolio of evidence. By completing the Level 3 course, your practitioner will be supported to put everything in place for your setting to deliver Forest School.

Level 2: The Forest School assistant qualification (Level 2) involves a training week and a portfolio. It is useful, but not necessary, to have a Level 2 assistant working with your Level 3 leader. However, you cannot deliver Forest School without a Level 3.

For more information about the training process, please contact Katie on 07775857222 or 01530 262434 or email at katieward2005@hotmail.com.

An alternative to training your own staff would be to employ a self-employed Forest School leader to deliver sessions to the children at your setting.

Where to train:

You can train at many locations around the country. A list of course dates around the country can be found at http://www.forestschools.com/training/course-list/.

Alternatively, contact katieward2005@hotmail.com for details of courses running in Ibstock, Leicestershire.

Planned Level 3 training dates include the weeks commencing:
- 10/8/15 (during the summer holidays)
- 30/5/16 (May ½ term)
- 15/8/16 (during the summer holidays)
- 17/10/16 (October ½ term)

More dates are to be confirmed, including Level 2 training dates.
Comments from practitioners about the Forest School Level 3 training in Leicestershire.

‘Thanks for a great week- best CPD ever!’ - Primary school teacher.

‘I think I will now look at everything in a different way’ - Private day nursery practitioner.

‘This course has been really inspiring’ - Afterschool club practitioner.

‘I have not resented spending my Easter hols here at all!’ - Primary school teacher.

‘A fantastic instructor- very patient- not at all fazed by my lack of practical skills. I would recommend this course- leadership so effective- lovely setting’ - Practitioner working with wide age range from children to adults.

‘Excellent course and trainer, great location and support available’ - Private day nursery practitioner.

‘Fantastic instructor, great delivery of course content, heavily practical, great immersion with new content’ - Primary school teacher.