

Forest school schema's

A theorist named Piaget theorised that schemas are an important part of how children learn and develop. Being aware of schemas allows you to ensure you provide opportunities in Forest School sessions for children to engage in and explore their schematic behaviour.

Some schemas we use during our forest school sessions : -

*Transporting – giving children the responsibility for collecting and organising resources using wheelbarrows, buckets and jars.

*Enveloping – Activities that involve camouflaging themselves and hiding objects. Playing games that involve, “1,2,3 where are you.”

*Trajectory - using natural materials to build rope swings or see saws. To be able to freely climb trees using physical strength.

*Transforming – Providing opportunities for children to play with and mix different natural materials such as leaves, mud, water. To encourage the children to make mud pies or cooking with these materials.

Important information at forest school

- Within the forest school area we keep stinging nettles, mushrooms and other living items in place. This is to ensure we can teach the children about these natural items within our environments and this should protect children when on walks to the park etc not to be touching and picking them.
- We have a pond with fish in forest school. We teach the children boundaries and rules of the dangers that may be within environments that the children come into contact with. The children are taught about the dangers of water and staying away from the pebbles around the pond.

Clothing for forest school sessions

All children need to come prepared for their forest school sessions.

Children need to bring: -

- *A named pair of wellington boots.
- *If your child has their own overalls you could provide these for their forest school sessions.
- *In warmer weathers children should be applied by parents with sun-cream.



ALL ABOUT
FOREST
SCHOOL



What is forest school?

Forest school is an inspirational type of play that offers children opportunities to achieve and develop their own confidence and self-esteem through hands on learning experiences within Ladybirds Forest school area.

Forest schools are nature based environments where trained practitioners nurture child led exploration and discovery, nurturing meaningful experiences for positive lifelong impacts.

Forest school builds on a child's innate motivation and positive attitudes to learning, offering them the opportunities to take managed risks, make personal choices, and initiate learning for themselves.

What are the benefits of forest school?

The children benefit from all aspects of forest school. Some of these benefits include:

- *Their independence and physical skills
- *Communication and Language skills
- *On first hand experiences for many children; outdoors is the preferred learning environment a child will thrive in.
- *Physical activity and development and the use of all the senses can stimulate the brain and intellect.
- *Forest school provides opportunities for risk taking and challenges that promotes a child's confidence.
- *Forest school promotes a deeper understanding of the natural world and how different aspects can affect the environment.
- *Forest school as well as the above benefits also links to all aspects of the curriculum we use in every day child care learning and development.

Becoming a Forest School Leader

The idea of letting tiny children experiment with knives and fire might sound scary as a parent, but safety is paramount during forest school sessions. All forest school leaders have to have a Level 3 Forest school qualification, which covers essential safety training such as risk assessments prior to activities.

Although children are encouraged to take risks, this is always with close adult guidance and support.

The richness of our forest school area reconnects the wilderness of our world and our sensitivity to life by expanding our sensory awareness. Our knowledge is unique to Forest schools and can only be delivered by a forest school trained member of staff.

Enjoy your time with Ladybirds Forest Pre-school on our forest school programme and join us to discover for yourself just how and why our unique approach will set you and your child on a transformational journey for life.....to be the best you can possibly be with nature.