

FOREST KINDERGARTEN: A NATRUAL APPROACH TO DEVELOPING HEALTH & WELLBEING & LEARNING IN YOUNG CHILDREN.



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“The outdoor environment offers motivating and different opportunities for learning... All aspects of the curriculum can be explored outside. The sights, sounds and smells of the outdoors, the closeness of nature, the excitement most children feel, the wonder and curiosity all serve to enhance and stimulate learning.”

Curriculum for Excellence, Building the Curriculum 2





WHY FORETS KINDERGARTEN ?

“Children are entitled to take part in physical activities and to play, including outdoors, and have an opportunity to experience and judge and manage risk”

Early Years Framework, pg11



















Successful Learners :

- Experience of rich multiple sensory stimuli outdoors
- Developed responses in variety of ways to what they have touched, seen, and smelled
- Safe tool use; potato peelers, secatares, saws, knives
- Creation and use of fire, safely
- Environmental Maths: counting, shape, colour, size, measuring
- Hands on experience, recognition and ability to record patterns in change of session
- Experimenting with materials and repetition of play patterns
- Development of map reading skills
- Fins meaningful context for using ICT
- Development of problem solving skills
- Explore mark making skills
- Developed sense of wonder of the world
- Developed interest and caring attitude to insects, plants and wildlife



Confident Individuals :

- Learn to manage risk
- Develops sense of achievement and confidence in acquisition of new skills
- Develop awareness of personal health and safety
- Developed physical confidence and skills through purposeful movement over large uneven area's, and balancing
- Developed control using large and fine motor skills
- Developed confidence in manoeuvring/negotiating along pathways and around objects
- Developed confidence in handling insects
- Exploring different levels, textures and surfaces
- Developed confidence in interactions with peers and adults
- Increased level of confidence in all area's of holistic development
- First hand experience of the effect of physical activity on themselves
- Overcoming shyness and lack of confidence

Responsible Citizens :

- Promoted sense of belonging
- Offered opportunities to demonstrate care for their surroundings
- Developed knowledge of, respect and care for living things and the natural environment through first-hand experience of nature
- Discovery of features of their immediate and wider environment
- Developed responsibility for material and equipment

Effective Contributors :

- Promoted participation in decision making
- Child led session though promotion of participation in leading/
- F.K shaping session and following sessions
- Development in negotiation with and consideration for others
- Team work : puddles, den building, making fires
- Expressed enthusiasm for activities
- Communication and expression of idea's through role-play, dance and movement
- Developed creativity and imagination
- Transference of knowledge and skills from outdoors to nursery peers



RIPPLE EFFECT :

- **Parental and Family Involvement**
- **Sharing new knowledge and skills**
- **Community Involvement**
- **Local Authority Extension of Forest Kindergarten**





PARENTAL QUOTES

“ She is more confident and willing to become more involved in social activities”

“ A lot more inquisitive of things outdoors, he will walk further too. And his awareness of outdoors, e.g. hanging branches, poisonous plants, also general education e.g. material - wood/stone,etc has developed.’

Parental quote from `Our Lady and St. Joseph's Nursery Class' Forest Kindergarten

