

Children and Young People

Experiential Learning and Natural Play

Available March to November

This full day ITT/CPD session is designed for students studying Early Childhood, Learning in Natural Environments, Education and Teaching courses. The day is structured into 5 sessions that explore: the range of learning opportunities at Westonbirt; considerations needed prior to making a visit to an outdoor setting; experiential learning at different ages; learning through natural play; and team challenges and developing trust.

Introduction

PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of Learning Policy and activity at Westonbirt in all its forms (for children and young people): schools, family events, youth engagement, activity walks, and learning through play.

Considerations for a successful visit

- What do you need to consider and discover about a site before you make a visit?
- Risk assessments – exploring an outline risk assessment. What are the important points to include in your H&S briefing and how can you manage risk?
- Learning outcomes – in small groups, consider physical, social, emotional, and behavioural outcomes as well as knowledge and skills for different scenarios
- Catering for everyone's needs – what needs might individuals bring with them? What considerations need to be made to address these needs?

Experiential, hands-on learning – an active outdoor session

Families – Meet a tree – a blind fold activity that connects people to trees through touch

Foundation stage – Teddy Islands, exploring needs for life through creative play

KS1 – Soil soup, what is soil made from and why is this good for plants?

KS2 – Photosynthesis game, and extensions for different ages / abilities

Secondary – Natural art, expressing emotions about woodland experience

Natural play, including exploring potential issues and benefits – an active outdoor session

Experiencing a range of natural play activities from our seasonal backpacks and woodland adventure leaflets: create, build, imagine and discover

Team challenges, including exploring potential issues and benefits – active outdoor session

Orienteering – different approaches – set route, star searches, geo-caching

Den building – quick challenge – waterproof an existing den to be tested with water!