



Parent Information



Forest School

Here at Curious Explorers we are very passionate about the experiences our children receive and even more about the experiences they have outdoors and how this enhances their development and learning.

We are very fortunate to have Parks/Forest areas just on our doorstep and we know the children absolutely love being in that environment and it's always a positive experience for them.

We now have members of our team that has completed their Level 3 forest school training and is delivering at least 2 forest school sessions per week for our Pre-schoolers and Toddlers.

What is Forest School?

'Forest School is an inspirational process that offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees'.

(Forest School Association)

How will Forest School support your child's development?

For us forest school is another tool that will help us fulfil every child's full potential.

Forest school will:

- ✓ Develop a love of learning that creates independent and confident learners
- ✓ Promote a secure, exciting and fascinating learning environment
- ✓ Support a positive relationship with the wider community
- ✓ Promote children's self-esteem
- ✓ Encourage independence
- ✓ Promote positive behaviour
- ✓ Provide children opportunities for safe risk taking
- ✓ Promote understanding and respect for plants, trees and animals

We would like to reassure parents that full risk assessments are done for our sites used and they are assessed every time we deliver a session. Our Forest School leads are present at all forest school sessions that are delivered.

What do children do there and what are the benefits?

- ✓ Children often learn woodland crafts and take part in activities such as singing and forest games.
- ✓ They make and play with tools, climb trees, make dens and look at insects, or simply explore the environment and invent their own games.
- ✓ Teachers observe them and set a structure but try to let the children lead their own learning.
- ✓ Children learn to judge risk for themselves and use their initiative.

What does your child need to attend forest school sessions?

Forest school takes place in all weathers, unless the safety of children is in question, due to icy paths or high winds etc. Suitable clothing is essential for everyone participating; children and staff need to be adequately dressed in order to gain the full learning potential of the sessions.

Parents who wish their child to take part in forest school will need to send their child in with the appropriate kit.

Children will need:

- ✓ Waterproof trousers/dungarees and jacket
- ✓ Long sleeved top
- ✓ Long socks and wellington boots
- ✓ During summer, a sun hat and sun cream
- ✓ During winter, extra layers such as tights, fleece, hats and gloves
- ✓ Spare change of clothes

All clothing/footwear should be clearly labelled.

