



This document includes an overview of the progression of skills we would hope for each child, linked to the core Forest School principles. This gives examples of the types of dispositions, the social and physical development and the practical skills that children will develop over the course of their journey in Forest School.

In Year 6 bushcraft sessions will focus on the practical skills learnt through the Forest School journey. These include the 5 core areas of bushcraft: edged tools, fire, water, shelters, ropes and knots, campfire cooking. The sessions are designed to nurture the children’s connections with the natural environment whilst providing them with opportunities to put their skills into practice.

FOREST SCHOOL PRINCIPLE	Rec	2	4	6
<p><b>Principle 1:</b> Forest school is a long term process</p>	<p>Have at least fortnightly sessions through Spring 2-Summer 2</p> <p>Enjoy being outside in a natural environment.</p> <p>Respect Queen Tree.</p>	<p>Respect the outdoor space.</p> <p>Understand that we are part of the sustainable management of our environment.</p> <p>Understand that Forest School runs over a period of time and to be patient.</p>	<p>Reflect upon the seasonal changes that occur.</p> <p>Identify features of seasonal change and growth.</p> <p>Develop activities and play that extend beyond one session at Forest School.</p> <p>Be active in protecting our environment through clearing rubbish, checking and maintaining habitats for minibeasts, taking care when exploring the environment, considering how many resources we use.</p>	<p>Understand how to find water in a natural environment.</p> <p>Make a water filter.</p> <p>Create something that could help to save water at Forest School.</p>
<p><b>Principle 2:</b> Forest school takes place in a natural wooded envt to support the link between the learner and the natural world</p>	<p>Understand that we are part of the natural world.</p> <p>Identify some minibeasts and their habitats.</p> <p>Identify one local plant and animal/bird seen at Forest School.</p>	<p>Identify some common plants and trees and understand what the different parts of plants look like: leaf, root, flower, seed, stem.</p> <p>Identify some local animals or birds and describe their key characteristics.</p>	<p>Understand the life cycle of animals and plants and can identify this in forest school.</p> <p>Understand the relationship between animals and plants in the environment.</p> <p>Identify one plant that can be</p>	<p>Be able to identify different trees and what they can be used for.</p> <p>Harvest and use willow to create a useful item such as a basket or a plant support.</p> <p>Design and create something</p>

	To explore the environment with curiosity.	Understand that natural materials can be used to help us by making something from a natural resource e.g. elder pencil, plantain balm.	foraged for food and make your own Elderflower cordial.  Understand how nature is part of everyday life and traditional customs by making Romanian Martisor bracelets to celebrate Spring.	to help us to be more sustainable.
<b>Principle 3: Forest school aims to promote the holistic development of all involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent, and creative learners</b>	Use the natural environment to explore different physical movements: balance, climb, crawl, squat, pull.  Play independently.  Use the natural art materials to create a painting.	Swing and hang on ropes.  Create a shelter from the rain.  Work with support to make a cord using Nordic slinging.  Use natural materials creatively.  Be mindful during a 3 minute sit spot.	Be able to create a simple item such as a mouse, tent peg or wand by whittling.  Create a willow sculpture.  Make paint or dye from natural materials.  Independently make cord using Nordic slinging or a card loom.  Regularly enjoy a quiet sit spot for at least 5 minutes.  Be confident to create unique things that reflect ourselves as individuals.	Navigate around Forest School using 3 different methods independently.  Create a survival compass bracelet using paracord.  Use 2 different knots.  Create useful items using recycled materials.
<b>Principle 4: Forest school offers learners the opportunity to take supported risks</b>	Climb across a rope bridge with confidence.  Engage in stick play.  Use a peeler to remove bark from a stick.	Swing and hang on ropes.  Develop different play using the ropes.  Use a hand saw to cut wood.  With support use a hand drill to make a hole in a piece of wood.  Maintain a fire with support.	Use a hand held awl to successfully drill a hole.  Whittle simple items from wood using a knife.  Collect and create firewood and kindling.  Use a flint and steel to create a spark.	Whittle a more complicated item such as a mushroom or spoon.  Plan, design and create a whittled project.  Use stamping tools to perforate and cut metal.

		Cook simple food on the fire such as popcorn and bannock bread.	Safely put wood on the fire. Balance on a strap between 2 trees.	
<b>Principle 5: Forest School is run by qualified practitioners</b>	Come to the Forest School circle when an adult does call back.  Know the 3 key rules of Forest School: No picking, No licking, No nicking.	Understand how to be safe when using tools.  Name the parts of a saw and what it is used for.  Understand how to move safely around the fire.	Hold and handle a knife safely.  Be able to use secateurs and loppers safely.  Understand which branches of a tree can be cut by secateurs and which need loppers.  Understand how to be safe when lighting and feeding a fire.	Know how to light a fire safely.  Maintain high levels of hygiene when cooking on a fire outside.
<b>Principle 6: Forest School uses a range of learner centred processes to create a community for development and learning.</b>	Work and play cooperatively and take turns with others.  Listen to each other attentively when they have the talking stick.  Share ideas and experiences using the talking stick.	Ask another child a question during Forest School circle time.  Listen to others and explain why they agree / disagree.  Develop their play by adapting to each others ideas.  Celebrate each others successes.  Make Forest School agreements.	Discuss and adapt Forest School agreements.  Actively listen to others and be able to build upon what others say to have a discussion.  Work together to make a shelter or debris den.	Work as a team to develop observational skills when out in nature.  Build a waterproof shelter that you could sleep in.  Prepare and cook a meal on the fire for the group to share.  Work together to design something to help us to be more sustainable.

**Key:**

Year 6 sessions have a bushcraft focus on using and honing the practical skills explored in Forest School.

**Tree day** - ID, hazel, elder and willow use, Hapa zome with leaves. Whittling.

**Sustainability day** - water locating, filtering and preservation.

Design a project to be sustainable.

T shirt cord making - recycling.

**Survival day**

Navigation, paracord craft and shelter building.

**Cookery day** - fire lighting and maintenance. Preparing and cooking lunch on fire.

Making stoves from tin cans

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