



Forest School



Our Forest School sessions take place on a Wednesday and Friday morning and are designed to help children to develop a love and respect for the outdoors, nature and the world around us.

Sessions start on the field outside the Pavilion, where we meet and wait for all our friends to arrive. We then set off on our adventure through the local village and woods to our designated Forest School site. Once there we talk through our safety rules and remind the children of our boundaries before starting our first job of the morning, which is to collect sticks for the fire! After that, children are given time to independently explore their surroundings, creating their own games and finding natural obstacles to tackle, giving them chance to build their self-esteem, resilience and confidence whilst also providing the opportunity to practice risk taking.

In addition to child led play, we offer a different activity each week to boost children's learning and enjoyment. Over the course of a year, children are given the opportunity to use different tools such as loppers, bow saws, peelers, drills and mallets to chop, saw and peel, creating their own masterpieces. Other activities include treasure hunts, identifying animal footprints, potion making, cooking on the fire, bark rubbing, tie dye bunting, mud painting, floating and sinking and lots more.

After a busy morning of exploring, we gather around the fire to rebuild our energy levels with a tasty snack of raisins, butter/jam sandwiches and a delicious cup of hot chocolate.

We ask that children are always sent with wellies, waterproofs and a change of clothes as we adventure whatever the weather!



Our curriculum is based on the principles set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which is the framework that all early years providers work within to ensure the best standards of care for your child.

The framework identifies 3 prime learning areas;

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED): Our exciting weekly adventures will allow your child to be actively learning, developing their self-confidence, self-awareness and independence whilst building positive relationships through shared experiences.

Communication and Language: Our low ratios, allow children to gain the confidence to naturally express themselves, their thoughts and how they are feeling during every session. As we explore and play in different environments, we provide the opportunity for discussion, questions and learning; talking about what we see, hear, smell and feel.

Physical Development: Our entire session is based outside and children are on the go throughout! From walking up to the site, to running, climbing, balancing and playing once in it. Children's strength and stamina are both tested and their confidence will naturally grow as they enjoy exploring the site.

In addition to the 3 prime areas, the EYFS also includes 4 specific learning areas;

Mathematics: Our adventures provide natural opportunities for counting, observing sizes, shapes and patterns within the environment.

Expressive arts and design: Our weekly activities provide opportunity for children's creativity to shine, whether it be mud painting, drum stick/music making, bark rubbing or bird feeder making.

Literacy: Using muddy puddles and sticks or leaves for mark making, spotting signs and symbols around us as we walk through the village.

Understanding the world: As the seasons change, we are able to watch as the world around us changes, embracing all the seasons and observing nature.

If your child would love to join our Forest School team, on Wednesday and/or Friday mornings, please contact us on: gepsupervisor@hotmail.com or visit our website on www.grindlefordandeyamplaygroup.org.uk

