



Forest School Progression

'RIVERS OF LIVING WATER'

At forest school, children will explore, take risks, make discoveries and engage in experiences that promote deep involvement. Children will develop self-regulation and learn a can do approach. They will have time to be curious, find things out, relate to others and be in charge of their own actions. Children will learn to understand the need to respect and care for our natural environment and all living things. They will use their senses and physical movement to explore forest school and use their imaginations to act out what they know, how they feel and to make sense of the world around them. Children are free to take on new risks with new experiences, making self-regulation manageable in a way that is emotionally and physically safe for our children. Challenges at forest school are often open ended with experiences being child initiated as well as teacher led. Children will follow instructions and develop team work and listening skills, essential skills needed before progressing onto working with tools or lighting fires. Forest school covers all aspects of the EYFS curriculum. It is a long term process of regular sessions in our local woodland at Walcot or at times, in our school grounds. It supports development of the learner and the natural world. Forest school aims to promote the holistic development of all involved, fostering resilient, healthy, confident, independent and creative learners.

Skills taught through all forest school activities:
 exploration, respect, open ended thinking, conservation, understanding of environment, taking calculated risks, confidence, improving self- esteem, physical development, resourcefulness, team building, problem solving, responsibility, patience, resilience, creativity, shared thinking.

		Using Tools (ratios depend on children and activity)	Building Dens	Making Fires	Independence	Tying Knots
Class 1	EYFS	Trowels, Sticks, Bug collectors, Paint brush Magnifying glass, Pond dipping, Measuring sticks, Jugs, Tarps, Rope, Hammer, Mallet, Forks, Spades, Mud kitchen	Leaning up branches/sticks with adult support. Mini dens for toys	Children find sticks of various sizes. Teacher lights the fire. Children will toast marshmallows. Safety is taught – step out of the back of the fire pit	There will be a high ratio of adults to children, depending on the activity. Children will go off on their own but stay within the set boundaries. Children will be within eye and/or ear shot of an adult	Twist and wrap rope or twine
	Year 1		Using simple knots, sticks, tarpaulins to make dens			

connect

sequence

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replace

reduce

compare

add

arrange

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Class 2	Year 2	Reception plus: Peelers (1:1) Rakes Bradel Secateurs (1:1) Hand drills bungee	Trying to make simple dens dark	Children will help to build the fire. They will use fire steels. Children will feed the fire to keep it going.	Children will have fewer boundaries. They collect their own equipment. Children may be out sight of an adult.	Simple knot that holds things tight
	Year 3		Develop an A frame for a den using bungees and netting. Dens are bigger and on one level			
Class 3	Year 4	Y2 plus: Loppers (1:3) Secateurs (1:3) Matches/flints	Develop an A frame for a den using bungees and netting. Dens are bigger and on one level and becoming more complicate	Children will help to build the fire and feed it to keep it going, they will help with light the fire. A wider variety of foods will be cooked.	Tasks are more open ended. Children will get their own equipment. They know the boundaries and are trusted to stay within them	Know how to do 3 or 4 knots
	Year 5		Dens are much bigger, they may have two levels. Large logs can be moved in teams. More equipment is used – bungees, ropes, netting. Dens may be tested for to see if they are waterproof			

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	Year 6	Y4 plus: Saws Loppers (1:5) Secateurs (1:5) knives	Same as Year 5 but more sturdy and complicated	Children will build their own fires. They responsible for lighting, feeding and extinguishing the fires.	Open briefs for tasks. Children are encouraged to try their own ideas, make mistakes and learn from them. Children have to resolve their own conflicts.	Know all knots
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