

Principles

- Forest School is a long-term process of frequent and regular sessions in a woodland or natural environment, rather than a one-off visit. Planning, adaptation, observations and reviewing are integral elements of Forest School.
- Forest School takes place in a woodland or natural wooded environment to support the development of a relationship between the learner and the natural world.
- Forest School aims to promote the holistic development of all those involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners.
- Forest School offers learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves.
- Forest School is run by qualified Forest School practitioners who continuously maintain and develop their professional practice.
- Forest School uses a range of learner-centred processes to create a community for development and learning.

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

My Little Barn Owls Ltd

The Old Barn, Roberttown Lane, Roberttown, WF15 7LY

My Little Barn Owls Forest School

Welcome to the exciting world of Forest School.

As a participating adult you will help the lead practitioner guide and support the children in their forest school session. Please take a few moments to read this leaflet to understand the roles and responsibilities of all adults involved.

If you have any questions please ask Karen or Claire Mc.

Above all ENJOY!!



Forest School is 90%

Child Lead

Forest School Lead:

Every session will be lead by a qualified lead practitioner, this will be Karen or Claire Mc.

The lead practitioner is overall responsible for the safe running of each session. They will make sure all other support adults know the rough session plan, have read the risk assessments and are suitable to complete the role, (DBS checked, first aid trained, fit and healthy & suitable clothing).

Each session will be roughly planned based on the previous session for each group. However these are not set in stone and can often be “put to one side” in favor of the children’s lead/ interests within the session.

The lead practitioner will give you a quick overview of the children within the group and how they usually interact within forest school sessions. You may find children you already know may act slightly different in these sessions than the usual environment.

All relevant equipment will be provided by the lead practitioner, but you may be asked to take lead on a particular activity/ tool. The lead practitioner will talk you through these before the session and guide you during the session. If you have any questions or feel uncomfortable please let them know as soon as possible. No practitioner will be asked to complete any activity they are not fully comfortable with on their own.

It is the lead practitioners responsibility to ensure any assisting adult is comfortable with the sessions plans before the start of the session, this will help ensure the sessions run as smooth as possible. If an assistant is not comfortable with an activity, another assistant may need to be used for that session.

Forest School Assistant:

Every session will have a forest school assistant who will assist the lead practitioner to deliver the session.

Ideally the same assistant will join the same group each week, this will help build strong bonds with the children as well as building the assistants confidence and knowledge. However we understand this can not always be the case due to many factors. All assistants will be briefed before the session on the rough plan to ensure they are able to assist with the smooth running of the session.

As an assistant you will be asked to follow the lead practitioner, and complete any specific activities they require. The main expectation of an assistant will be to observe the children during the session.

Forest school sessions are mainly child lead, as long as we know the children are safe, adult intervention may not always be needed. Our goal is to make the children as independent during these sessions as they can be. This will be built up over time with the adults offering invitations to play as a way to build new skills.

Please speak with the lead practitioner if at any point you are unsure or uncomfortable with an activity.

Forest School is 100%

enjoyable by all.

Extra Information:

What to observe: the safety of the children is always priority, however risk taking is a part of forest school. While the adults will observe the children to ensure safety, they will not intervene unless safety is compromised. Adults may remind children to remember their safety and to be mindful of the current situation by using positive reassuring language.

Adults will also be observing how the children interact in each session, are they independent from adults/ other children, do they work together, are they engaging in the provided invitation to learn or are they exploring their own interest? These observations will influence the session at the time as well as future sessions.

Positive Language: as within the setting forest school should be a positive experience. With this in mind we ask that all adults only use positive language even with behavior that challenges. When reminding children of the boundaries encourage them to remember these themselves and say them back to you, than ask if they are demonstrating these in their action/ behavior.

Safeguarding: all sessions will have a ratio of 2 adults to 6 children, at least one adult will be qualified forest school practitioner and a first aider. Adults must remain vigilant to changes in the environment both natural and people as we will be in a public area.

Emergency: if an emergency occurs ensure all adults and children stop what they are doing. Inform the lead of the situation, who will then advise on a course of action. A first aid kit and setting mobile phone must be taken on all sessions.

Risk Assessments: please ensure you have read and understood any risk assessments which maybe effective while in any given session. Risk assessments can be found in the forest school folder, please ask the lead if you are unsure which ones to read.

Clothing: wellies and wet suits will be provided when required, however please ensure you wear long trousers and sleeves when attending sessions.
