

EYFS OUTSIDE LEARNING PROJECT FACT SHEET

PURPOSEFUL AND CHALLENGING PLAY OUTSIDE (3 – 5 age range)



Photograph courtesy of St John's Walham Green CE Primary School

Some key references:

- Tina Bruce 12 key features of play can be accessed at:
<https://www.froebel.org.uk/froebelian-approach-to-childhood-play>
- Sustained shared thinking described by Iram Siraj-Blatchford and Laura Manni in an early Nursery World article:
<https://www.nurseryworld.co.uk/news/article/good-question>
- Stimulating outside activities by Learning through landscapes:
<https://www.ltl.org.uk/free-resources/>
The value of outdoor play by Sue Durant:
<https://www.communityplaythings.co.uk/learning-library/articles/the-value-of-outdoor-play>

Some key suggestions to encourage talk and sustained shared thinking:

- Provide interesting natural environments for children to explore freely outdoors.
- Encourage families to share photographs etc., of outside home play, e.g. a visit to the park, plants that have been grown, favourite activities outside.

- Make collections of natural materials to investigate and talk about.
Suggestions:
 - contrasting pieces of bark
 - different types of leaves and seeds
 - different types of rocks
 - different shells and pebbles from the beach.
 Provide equipment to support these investigations. Suggestions: magnifying glasses or a tablet with a magnifying app.
- Explore the natural world around the children.
- Offer opportunities to sing songs and join in with rhymes and poems about the natural world.
- After close observation, draw pictures of the natural world, including animals and plants.

Characteristics of effective teaching and learning:

When children are engaged in challenging, engaging, exciting and interesting activities outside, they naturally display, at their own level of development, all the characteristics of effective learning:

- Playing and exploring,
- Active learning,
- Creating and thinking critically.

Books:

Anthony, J. (1997) *The Dandelion Seed* Dawn Publications. 1-883220-67-X
 Baylor, B. (1974) *Everybody needs a Rock*. New York: Atheneum, ISBN 978-0-13899-2
 Berger, C. (2008) *The Little Yellow Leaf*: 978-0-06-145223-9
 Brown, P. (2009) *The Curious Garden*: Little, Brown and Company, 978-0-316-01547-9
 Bowers, J. (2014) *Little Tree*. Dorking: The Templar Company ISBN 978-1-84877-883-2
 Ehler, L. (2005) *Leaf Man*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Co., ISBN 978-0-152-05304-8
 Faulks, B & Cort, B (2016) *Watch Out for Muddy Puddles*. 978-1-4088-6719-8
 Farquharson, P. (2011) *The Green Line*. London: Frances Lincoln Children's Books, ISBN 978-1-84780-259-0
 French, V. (2009) *Yucky Worms*. London: Walker Books, ISBN 978-1-4063-2808-0
 Hanson, F. (2014) *The Wonder*. Dorking: The Templar Company ISBN 978-1-78370-114-8
 Hegley, J. (2011) *Stanley's Stick*. London: Hodder Children's Books, ISBN 978-0-340-98819-0
 Hughes, E. (2015) *The Little Gardener*: Flying Eye Books, 978-1-909263-43-7
 Hughes, E. (2013) *Wild*: Flying Eye Books: 978-1-909263-08-6
 King, P. (1993) *Apple Green and Runner Bean*. 0-7445-4733-4
 Lionni, L. (1961) *On My Beach There Are Many Pebbles*. New York: HarperCollins, ISBN 978-0-13284-2
 Metzger, M. (2005) *We're Going On A Leaf Hunt*. New York: Scholastic Inc., ISBN 978-0-429-87377-2
 Ray, M.L. (2001) *Mud*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Co., ISBN 978-0-152-02461-1

Theobalds. P. (1990) The Teddy Bears' Great Expedition. London: Blackie and Son Ltd., ISBN 978-0-21692-993-8

Verde. S. (2013) The Museum. New York: Abrams Books for Young People, ISBN 978-1-4197-0594-6

Winslow. M. (1989) Mud Pies and Other Recipes. New York: The New York Review of Books ISBN 978-1-59017-368-8

Book collection for outside:

<https://www.early-education.org.uk/outside-play-and-learning-ideas-info-and-lots-links>

10 great books for celebrating the big outdoors:

<https://www.teachwire.net/news/10-great-primary-books-for-celebrating-the-big-outdoors>

Useful websites:

Outdoor lesson ideas:

<https://www.ltl.org.uk/free-resources/?swoof=1&page=2-5>

Outdoor learning risk management:

<https://www.ltl.org.uk/understanding-risk/>

Benefits for early years of learning outside:

<https://www.lotc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Benefits-for-Early-Years-LOtC-Final-5AUG09.pdf>

Outdoor play:

<https://www.communityplaythings.co.uk/learning-library/articles/outdoor-play?topic=87028FA489194D419F50FBC7427E08D2>

Early Education: Going out to play and Learn – M Ouvery:

<https://www.early-education.org.uk/going-out-play-and-learn>

Videos:

Why is outside important:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwBxJaabtsU>

Wet cold weather and how to be outside:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKhZNXzDaco>

Releasing the potential for outside learning (includes primary years):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edtWYcJuZal>

Outdoor learning with forest school – Teachers TV:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjzFfU43wuQ>

“Take me out” LtL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rh6yXuok4l8>

Local community provision:

Your own outside area

The school grounds

Your local park or open space

Forest school training: <http://www.vanessanurseryschool.org.uk/forest-school/>

What's cooking?

When children know where their resources are, and can access them independently, the play flows!



Photograph courtesy of James Lee Nursery School, part of the Thames Federation