

Forest School Level 3 Training (Spring/ Summer 2012)

Course Content

This accredited course will enable those who have an interest in working with children in the outdoors to lead Forest School sessions on a woodland site (or on school grounds). You will need to have an identified group that you can work with to deliver Forest School sessions as part of your training. You must have experience working with whichever group you plan to deliver Forest School sessions with; Early Years / Primary / Secondary / Youth or Adult groups, and a current CRB. You will also need a suitable site to deliver sessions on.

Forest School is based upon a desire to provide children (including primary and secondary) with regular weekly educational experiences that encourage an appreciation of the natural world, while increasing their confidence and self esteem through achievable tasks. Children learn to respect their environment and can show improved concentration, social skills and independence.

Intended outcomes - successful delegates will be able to run Forest School sessions on an appropriate woodland site having increased their knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- Health and safety issues and risk assessments
- Using tools and practical work in a woodland setting
- Children's learning styles and emotional development

Target Audience:

All staff within an Early Years Setting, Early Years Foundation Stage Teachers, Out of School/Holiday Care Scheme Practitioners, Childminders/ Homebased Childcarers, Committee Members.

Delegates from a non-teaching background, e.g. horticulture/arboriculture/rangers are also welcome, as are Early Years, Primary and Secondary school staff. Places are also available for delegates who do not work in childcare and/or who work outside of Shropshire.

Entry Criteria:

- Considerable experience of working with young people
- Age 21 or over
- Have a Level 3 or above qualification (NNEB, Teacher, Play worker or Youth worker (to **level 3** or equivalent) **OR** level 2 with a portfolio of at least **2 years experience** of working with children/ young people in a leadership capacity
- Have a current CRB disclosure (or Disclosure Scotland Certificate)
- Have or be in the process of acquiring a current valid First Aid certificate (minimum 2-day ITC or equivalent) or tailored two day First Aid in the Outdoors course delivered and certified by a provider registered with HSE
- Appropriate insurance cover and permissions for delivering a Forest School programme with your client group

Course Objective:

This course will enable you to deliver Forest School sessions either on a woodland site or on your school grounds.

This challenging course comprises the following elements over approximately 6 months:

- 1) Six days taught element which will cover the following three OCN modules:
 - Learning and Development at Forest School
 - Practical work and Woodland Management
 - Establishment and Delivery of a Forest School Programme
- 2) A two day First Aid in the Outdoors course (you will need to do this course or be able to provide a current certificate for this qualification *please note: this is in addition to first aid at work and paediatric first aid*)
- 3) Preparation of your personal portfolio of course work and evidence of practical Forest School Sessions with your chosen client group. This must be completed in your own time following the 6-day taught element
- 4) Assessment leading to Open College Network (OCN) accreditation will include:
 - Submission of your completed personal portfolio by the due date
 - Observation of your leadership of a Forest School session.

NB: *You must be prepared to work outside whatever the weather - waterproofs and sturdy footwear are essential (and a spare change of clothes is recommended).*

Please bring a pen, paper, packed lunch and a camera to each day of the course food and pans are needed for the final week- this will be discussed in more detail during the course.

Delegates must attend all six days, the and the two-day First Aid course. If you have a current First Aid in the Outdoors Certificate, you do not have to attend the first aid course but must provide a photocopy of this certificate.

If you do not attend or if you cancel within 28 days of the start of the course you will be charged in full unless we are able to reallocate your place.

Dates:

Monday 20th February 2012 Session 1
Monday 27th February 2012 Session 2
Monday 5th March 2012 Session 3
Monday 12th March 2012 Session 4
Monday 19th March 2012 Session 5
Monday 26th March 2012 Session 6
Thurs 19th, Fri 20th First Aid
9.15 for 9.30 start 4.30 finish

Monday 16th April 2012 Session 1
Monday 23rd April 2012 Session 2
Monday 30th April 2012 Session 3
Monday 14th May 2012 Session 4
Monday 21st May 2012 Session 5
Monday 28th May 2012 Session 6
Thurs 14th and Fri 15th June First Aid

****TO BOOK ONTO A COURSE (or for information about costs), PLEASE CALL 01743 254319 or e-mail** earlyyearscpd@shropshire.gov.uk**