



Level 3 Certificate for Forest School Leaders

Key dates for stages of Practical and Home study

Step 1. Complete UNIT 1 & completed Risk Assessments by end of Practical Training

Step 2. With approved UNIT 1: Practical Skills, students can plan their Forest School 6 pilot/introductory sessions with a group of young people (same group every week for 6 weeks). Before starting, the students need to make sure they have completed any necessary Health & Safety documents e.g The Forest School Handbook (UNIT 4; 3.1) Find a person who can come and support your 6 sessions and fill out the 'Delivery Observer Assessment sheet'.

Step 3. Begin 6 Pilot sessions (see below). You must provide lesson plans & evaluation for each session and show how the observation of at least 3 students has influenced your planning. Make sure you take photos. Make sure you find someone who can fill out the 'Delivery Observer Assessment Sheet'. (Record in Unit 5: 1.1; 2.1; 2.2; 3.1; 3.2).

ONGOING: UNIT 2 & 3 (5.1 & 5.2) can be completed in your own time. You can also, in theory complete Unit 4: 1.1; 1.2; 1.3: 2.1; 2.2; 3.1 in your own time.

All completed workbooks – Unit 2, 3, 4, 5 must be handed in by **your designated end of course time.**

Guidance for Planning and Delivery of the Introductory 6 – week school Programme

1. You are required to plan and facilitate a minimum of 6 weeks Forest School to a small group of children/young people (minimum of 8 young people).
2. Each session should be around 2 hours long (including planning) – 1 and half hour direct contact, have a week in between each session, and be attended by the same group of young people.

Getting Ready! You will need:

- A signed off Unit 1 Practical Skills workbook.
- A current Outdoor First Aid Certificate
- A current DBS for all adults
- A Forest School Handbook
- All your risk benefit assessments
- An overview of your sessions and the first session plan

Your group:

- Your group may be from your school, youth organisation or home school. You will need some background information on the young people to help you plan appropriately and consider any additional needs.
- You will need to have parental and medical consent and permission to take photographs. Consider where you keep this information to comply with Data Protection Act.
- You will need to be able to communicate what Forest School is with the parents, volunteers and organisation and what the aims are of this programme.

Staffing:

- Consider your ratios (legally and based on the children's needs & activities). You will need to have at least one other adult supporting you – this is for any emergencies, child protection and to comply with ratios. They can be any suitable adult.

Your Forest School Site:

- You will need an outdoor site with some trees! This can be attached to a school or nearby land. You need to have the permission from the landowner and for any particular activities e.g fire lighting. Sometime the trees will need to be checked for their safety.

Forest School Handbook:

You will need to have completed your Forest School Handbook before beginning your introductory sessions. Please follow the Forest School Association Guidance or other document we provide.

Risk Benefit Assessments:

- You need to comply with Health and Safety at all times. You will need to have a site risk assessment in place, do a daily risk assessment each week, and activity or generic activity risk assessments that are signed by you.

Insurance:

- You must have insurance to cover you. This may be done for yourself or your organisation, or through the school you work with – check that any current insurance covers Forest School Activities (Fire-making, tools etc)

Emergency Bag:

- It is good practice to carry an emergency bag that contains a first aid kit, medical details, emergency procedures and any other equipment. Make sure this is visible.