Circle of Life: Level 3 Certificate for Forest School Leaders
Content Overview for Online Resources:

Welcome page for registered students:
Policies and Procedures

- Access to Fair Assessment
- Learner Appeals procedure
- Complaints Procedure
- Learning Style, Assessment Methods and Plagiarism
- Extension and Special Consideration Policy
- Inclusive Assessment and Academic Integrity Policy (including the use of AI)

CLRs Reading list

- CLR Recommended Reading List
- Great FS texts
- Early Childhood Outdoors recommended books
- How to grow a Forest School from the Roots up

Course documents

- Course Manual
- How to set up a Forest School from the roots up
- CLR Forest School Handbook
- Online content overview
- Unit 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Workbooks (Nov 2026 New Qualification)

UNIT 1 Forest School Programmes and Practical Skills
Unit 1 Overview

- Workbook – Unit 1 Workbook Practical Skills
- Unit Guide – Unit 1: what you must include (tick it and send it with your unit)

Supporting Documents:

- Workbook – Unit 1 Workbook Practical Skills
- Unit 1 Peer signatures document
- Key Processes
- Basic Kit
- Equipment Supplier List

Tools and Crafts

- Basic Saw Use
- Coppicing Pruning Thinning Pollarding
- Drilling at Forest School
- Tool Maintenance

- Basic Knife Use and Fixed Blade Knife
- FSW: Safe Use and Storage of Tools
- Common Poisonous Plants at Forest School
- Uses of Timber
- Tool Progression Indicators (Bishops woods)
- VIDEO - Using Knives and secateurs with Marina – The Outdoor Teacher
- VIDEO – Tool Protocol & Knife sharpening with Ray Mears

Knots and Ropes

- FSA Guidance on Low Ropes (Feb 2025)
- CLR Knots and Swings
- Children's Swings – A Guide to Good Practice
- Ropes, Swings, Dens, Treehouses & Fires
- Ropes
- Using Ropes with all Ages – Maintenance & Safety -The Outdoor Teacher

Fire

- Building a Fire
- Back to Basics Scouts Full Edition
- Scouters guide Campfires Camp stoves
- Fire Principles
- Video – The Fire Circle Routine

Cooking

- FSA Guidance Note Food Safety (April 2025)
- Food Safety in the Outdoors
- Outdoor Cooking Recipe Cards
- Cooking

Practical Health and Safety

- Assessing Risks and Hazards Overview
- Emergency Plan & Procedures (Generic)
- Emergency flow charts
- Casualty Form
- Sample Weather Policy
- Daily Risk Assessment Check List
- Forest School Information: Ticks
- Blank Activity RBA (Editable)
- Blank Generic RBA (Editable)
- Blank Site RBA (Editable)
- Cooking with Fire RBA (Sample Risk benefit assessment)
- Generic Fire RBA
- Generic Ropes, Swings & Nets RBA
- Generic Tools RBA
- Mill Woods Site Risk Assessment
- Shelter Building RBA
- Tree Climbing RBA
  Using Fire Steels RBA
- Using Saws for Discs (Sample Risk Assessment)

- Wild food and Foraging Risk Assessment RBA (Sample Risk Assessment)
- Woodland Games (Sample Risk Assessment)

Plants

- Wildfood and Foraging Risk Assessment RBA
- Common Poisonous Plants that may be found at Forest School by Jon Cree
- Key List of Edible / Green Light Plants

Shelters

- Shelter building sheet
- VIDEO – Small Tarps for Shelter and play

Mud Play

- Making a Mud Kitchen

Songs

- MP3's and M4A's of host of songs!

Unit 2 – Woodland as a Learning Environment

Unit 2 Overview

- Unit Learning Outcomes – ITC Learning Outcomes: Woodland Learning Environment

Research Articles

- Trees and Wellbeing during Covid 19
- Valuing the Mental Health Benefits of Woods
- Unlocking the Forest
- The Natural Choice
- Nature and Well Being Act
- Environmental Dimension of Children's Well Being
- Benefits of green infrastructure
- Forest Trees and Human Health

Ecology and Management

- Woodland Ecology Session and Succession
- Permaculture
- Planting out Young Trees
- Working with the Woodland
- Woodland Legislation
- Woodland Management **Powerpoint**

Ecological Impact and Management Planning (Unit 2, criteria 5.1 and 5.2)

- 3 Year Woodland Management Session Plan
- 12 steps to making a Woodland Management plan
- Environmental Impact Template
- My Forest Site Survey Form
- Woodland Legislation – Bishops Wood

Useful Resources

- Coppicing, Pruning, Thinning & Pollarding

- Monitoring Forest School Sites
- Management Plan Template
- Management Plan Handout

Unit 3 – Learning and Development
Unit 3 Overview

- Workbook – Unit 3 Workbook: Learning and Development
- Outdoor Learning
- Out to Play Scotland
- Tree stories

Research

- A systematic Review of Forest School Literature
- Analyses of Nature Connectedness
- Access and Equity Report
- Attending 12 weekly sessions
- Childhood Experiences
- Forest School for Wellbeing
- Moments not Minutes
- Nature-based Early Childhood Review

FS Principles, ethos and Practice

- Forest School Principles and Criteria for Good Practice
- What is Forest School?
- Four Key Dynamic

Play

- Free Play in Early Childhood
- Learning Playing Interacting
- Loose Parts Play
- Play England Charter for Children's Play
- Playful Learning Guide
- Play in Secondary Schools Ideas & Inspiration
- Play - Government Report 2015
- Play: The Challenges we face at Forest School (Bob Hughes)
- Playwork Primer 2010
- The Return of Play Tim Gill July 2014
- Tina Bruce 10 Principles of Play

Effective Communication

- Effective communication
- Strategies People Use for Handling Challenging behaviour
- I Statements

Video: How we learn – The Brain
Presentation: The Brain
Presentation: Importance of play

Theories of Learning

- Children's development overview
- Learning Styles
  Learning Theories overview
  Schemas and Forest School
- Movement in Play

Useful Documents

- Primitive Reflexes
- Guy Claxton
- Embodiment - Dr Jennings
- Accelerated Learning - Summary
- De Bono - Six Thinking Hats
- More of Me - Full Report
- EYFS Chris Athey Schemas

Student presentations Examples

- Building Learning Power - Guy Claxton
- Forest School Highscope Presentation
- Forest School Steiner Presentation
- Friedrich Froebel 1782-1852
- Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences
- Guy Claxton: Building Learning Power & Forest School
- Howard Gardner
- John Bowlby's Theory on Attachment
- Montessori & Forest School Practice Presentation
- Piaget and Vygotsky
- Reggio Emilia and Forest Schools
- Steiner Presentation
- David Sobel

Social & Emotional & Spiritual Development

- Improving self-esteem and Emotional Intelligence
- The Wheel of Feeling Chart by Kailin Robbs
- Risk Handout
- Virginia Axline 8 Principles
- Risky Play (extract)
- Claire Samways L & D
- 5 Elements of emotional intelligence

Therapeutic Communication

- Therapeutic communication to Improve Behaviours of Challenging Children and Teenagers

- 4 Key Relational Needs – Margot Sunderland

Unit 4 – Planning and Preparation
Unit 4 Overview
- Workbook – Unit 4 Workbook: Planning and Preparation

Forest School History and Key Influences
- History of Forest School
- A History of Environmental Education
- Forest School and Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto by Jon Cree

Forest School & Outdoor Learning Research
- The decline of Play – Peter Gray 2011
- Bringing children closer to nature 2019
- A marvelous opportunity for children to learn 2006
- My School, my Planet 2020
- Health, Place and Nature
- Leadership for embedding in the curriculum.
- Wellbeing benefits
- Take me Out
- UK Chief Medical officer 2019
- No Fear Growing Up in a Risk Adverse Society
- Student Outcomes & Natural Schooling Pathways to Impact 2016
- Summary of Research
- Transforming Outdoor Learning in Schools SCN
- Worcester Forest School Research Academic Journal
- Work on the Wild Side
- Breeze 2018 Report - impact on emotional well-being
- Therapeutic benefits

Preparation for Your Handbook
- FSA Handbook Guidance Notes
- Guidance Notes on the Handbook

Student Handbook Examples:
- Forest School Handbook - Amy
- Forest School Handbook - Lucy
- Forest School Handbook - Jane
- Forest School Handbook - LG
- Forest School Handbook – SD
- Forest School Handbook - ED

Ratios:
- National Guidance Good Practice Ratios & Effective Supervision
- Statutory Framework Staff Child Ratio
- NSPCC Ratios
- East Sussex Off-Site Activities & Educational Visits Supervision Ratio (Non-Hazardous)
- Early Years PG 23
- Brighton & Hove Offsite & Adventurous Activities Guidance V13

Presentations:

- Health and Safety in England
- Health and Safety in Ireland

Unit 5 – Forest School Programmes and Delivery

Unit 5 Overview

- Workbook – Unit 5 Workbook: Delivery

Introduction to Forest School Pilot Sessions

- Key Steps for Training and Guidance for Delivery
- Delivery Observer Assessment Sheet
- Setting up a Forest School
- Kit List for Forest School
- A practical Guide for Facilitating Reflection in the Outdoors

Planning Presentation

- Presentation: Nature Cycles and Nature Centric Models

Session Examples & Curriculum links

- Template 1 Long term
- Template 2 Pre-planning
- Example Session 1
- Example Session 5
- FS and Example Irish Curriculum Links
- Trees mind map

Downloadable Observation Resources

- Observation and Reflection Guidelines
- Observation and questions
- Template 1 Observation
- Template 1 Example
- Template 2 Example

Evaluation

- Measuring wellbeing workshop by Jon Cree
- Template 3 Leuven Scales
- Mood imagery - Erasmus
- Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire
- Warwick Edinburgh Well-being scales