Forest school at Little Pips



What will my child do at Forest school?

It may look like your child is simply having fun outdoors, but the practitioners joining them are trained to plan, observe and adapt sessions to react to children’s interests and the ever-changing natural environment, while also building on their knowledge, skills and confidence.

Sessions are child-directed, so the range of activities that can take place are huge, but they all take advantage of natural resources and reinforce children learning to respect and care for the natural environment. These can include:

* Sensory walks
* Foraging
* Team-building games
* Hunting for mini-beasts or pond dipping
* Building shelters and dens
* Climbing trees
* Playing in puddles
* Natural arts and crafts
* Tying knots
* Using tools for a purpose
* Building and lighting fires and cooking on them.

Children are given the space to explore but, don’t worry, there are high ratios of adults to children, and early sessions establish rules and boundaries which continue to be reinforced.

Using real tools and building fires can be an exciting part of the sessions, but these aspects are introduced gradually to children when practitioners feel it is appropriate

What are the benefits of Forest School?

The benefits of taking part in Forest School include children:

* Undertaking practical physical activities which encourage them to be more active and help to develop gross and fine motor skills
* Starting to understand and appreciate the natural world and environmental issues
* Working together to complete challenges, take turns and problem-solve: How can we make a big den?
* Developing communication and learning new vocabulary
* Becoming resilient, independent, enquiring and creative learners
* Learning to assess risks and make informed decisions: Will the branch be sturdy enough to take my weight? How do I use a mallet safely?
* Learning maths skills: How many big sticks will I need to build a den?

Supporting your child ……….

If you feel anxious about your child attending Forest School sessions then please speak to our Nursery Manager or Forest school lead to find out more about their training and our risk management procedures.

Ensure you know when your child is attending forest school sessions so they can be dressed appropriately, typically; wellies, waterproof trousers and jacket or a waterproof suit. Woolly hats and gloves for the winter and sunhats and sun cream for the summer.

Let your child know it is ok for them to get dirty at Forest School that way they ae free to enjoy their session fully .

Remember Forest School will not get cancelled because of rain- there is no such thing as the wrong weather, just the wrong clothes!

