Rainbows' Forest School

"Nature is a tool to get children to experience not just the wider world, but themselves"

Stephen Moss

Our aim of forest school

Here at Epsom Downs Community School our children get the opportunity to experience Forest School from the moment they start in Rainbows right up to Year 6. The children in the Rainbows have their own wonderful secure area on the school grounds for carrying out their Forest School sessions.

Our intentions of Forest School are to develop a positive, child-centered environment that nurtures children's creativity, independence and resilience through an enriched, child-led curriculum.

How it links to the EYFS curriculum

Physical Development

Dressing and Undressing, understanding what foods are healthy, managing hygiene, walking on differentt terrains, handling tools with control.

PSED

Reflect on their achievements, independently select resources, trying a range of new experiences, learn how to become resilient and persevere when things become challenging through trial and error, understand and share in others values and beliefs and talk about significant events that have happened to them.

Literacy Development

Listen attentively to stories told around base camp and join in, use sticks in the mud to make marks and form the letters in their names.

Understanding the World

They will obtain a good knowledge and understanding of how we can look after our environment, how the environment changes during the seasons; watching how some plants grow in spring and summer and decay and change in autumn and winter

Communication & Language

Use complex sentences to communicate and explain their ideas, explain what is happening, predict what might happen next, recall past experiences and use questions to ask why things happen to adults and their peers in order to work collaboratively together; sharing and taking turns.

Expressive Arts & Design

Join in with singing songs around the base camp, use natural materials to create paint and pictures and develop their imaginary role play

Mathematical Development

Count how many objects they have collected, talk about and sort natural materials into categories based on colour, size, shape etc

What we will be doing...

· Learning how to use rope and material to build dens
· Using magnifying glasses to identify different leaves, flowers, trees and wildlife
· Looking after wildlife by creating homes and feeders
· Using potato peelers to whittle wood
· Playing teams games
· Learning about lifecycles of plants and minibeasts
· Carrying out art and sculpture work
· Observing wildlife
.Carrying out sensory activities using a range of materials