

Level 3 Forest Schools Practitioner Award

Course Overview



12 Days of training comprises of the following stages:

1. Initial Training Week – 5 days
2. Portfolio of Evidence
3. 6 month consolidation period
4. Forest Schools Education support
5. (Optional) 16 hour ITC First Aid for Forest Schools
6. Assessment / Development Week – 4 Days
7. Portfolio submission
8. Portfolio marking
9. Completion of qualification



Stage 1: Initial Training Week

This is a very intensive five-day course covering five units; each day can be both physically and emotionally strenuous. Each unit is designed to provide you with the theoretical understanding and the practical skills in order to design and develop and run your Forest Schools Programme. Archimedes provides a level of training where it is expected that an individual will be responsible for the supervision of others, both assistants and children. You will be responsible for the development of policy and procedures and be equipped to work for yourself.

Portfolio units of learning

Forest School Programmes and the Woodland Environment
 Practical Skills for a Forest School Programme
 Learning and Development at a Forest School Programme
 Planning a Forest School Programme
 Delivery of a Forest School Programme

Example scheme of work for the Initial Training Week

Day 1	Introduction to Forest Schools Sawing, shelters and knots
Day 2	Reviewing Environmental impact assessment and health and safety
Day 3	Accelerated learning and session planning, schemas, fire lighting and fire safety, site development.
Day 4	Emotional development and behaviour, practical skills, woodland management and tools maintenance.
Day 5	Self esteem and the role of the practitioner play and language development.

Stage 2: Portfolio of Evidence

On the training course the Forest Schools Portfolio of Evidence is introduced. This resource is unique to Archimedes and has been designed to support the learner through each step of the qualification and be an essential document in the development of your own Forest Schools.

The portfolio is comprised of:

- Portfolio
- Practical Skills Sheets
- Personal Experience Log
- Forest Schools Handbook



Portfolio –

This is the log used throughout the course to make notes and complete all the evidence required by the awarding body.

Practical Skills Sheets –

These sheets act as a quick aide memoir of how to follow best practice when using tools with different groups.

Personal Experience Log –

It is essential when working with groups in the out doors that you can prove that you are competent and safe. To do this you need to be continually working with groups and managing a range of experiences within a range of different situations.

Stage 3: Consolidation Period

The consolidation period is designed to provide the necessary time to work through and complete most parts of the portfolio. It is important to take time to reflect and digest the information acquired during the training course. It also gives the opportunity to draw any research together, demonstrate acquired and existing knowledge and compile the logbook of relevant experience obtained prior to and during the consolidation period.

During this time you will set up and deliver 6 x 2 hour Forest Schools sessions over 6 weeks at your site as part of your portfolio completion. These sessions will not include tool use or fire lighting but can cover any other areas of the course that you can safely deliver with your group.

The consolidation period can be a variable length of time dependent on the previous level of experience that each participant has and the ability to integrate Forest Schools activities into existing delivery.



Stage 4: FSE Support

The experienced and helpful members of the Forest Schools Education Training Team will provide a friendly and supportive service that will guide learners through each step of the qualification.



Action Plan –

At the end of the training course create an action plan of how to complete the qualification with the support of your peers on the course and with the continuous support offered by FSE.

Training Team Aim –

To provide added support usually through email, post or on the telephone, to ensure that participants on the course can complete the chosen qualification to highest standards.

Training Team Objective –

- Assist participants to action plan
- Assess course evaluations
- Provide online or telephone support
- Give feedback on completed units
- Provide information about Continuous Personal Development
- Info and support on Facebook/Twitter

Stage 5: ITC First Aid for Forest School Practitioners

Over the last few years there has been some confusion with regard to the first aid course being offered to Forest Schools Practitioners. Some of this confusion comes about due to the EYFS statutory requirements and the need for some Forest Schools Practitioners to have a Paediatric First Aid in the work place. In order to make sure that there is some standardisation within the UK with what is being delivered ITC has introduced a **Forest School First Aid** course. This has been developed to meet the demand of the forest school providers and is specific to the Forest School setting. Developed and delivered by Andy Forsyth.

Forest School First Aid (16 Hours)

- The course is 16 hours and is in keeping with the requirements of the outdoor national governing bodies.
- This course prepares candidates to deal with incidents in the outdoors and remote settings. *(By definition, remote is more than 30 mins from assistance)*
- Emphasis will be made by dealing with both adults and children. *(By definition, children covers ages 1 – pre-puberty)*
- The course will cover child related illnesses, burns, poisons, foreign objects in the eye, hypothermia as well as other outdoor illnesses.
- As the course covers adult issues and will not cover infants (0-12 months) it will therefore not be a true Paediatric course and hence will not be transferable to early years statutory requirements for Paediatric First Aid.
- For reasons of standardisation, ITC trainers will be accredited to deliver this course, by undergoing additional training in order to appear on the ITC Forest School First Aid Provider register.

This course is not compulsory however is strongly recommended if you do not hold an equivalent outdoor First Aid qualification. This can be booked at a reduced rate if you book it at the same time as your Forest Schools training.

Stage 6: Assessment / Development Week

IMPORTANT

You must return for your assessment week within 1 year of completing your initial training week or you may have to re-do your initial training week at an additional charge.

The assessment process is designed for learners to get the best out of the training experience and allows for a demonstration of competence to work with the Forest Schools ethos in the future.

Monday: We will review Programme Planning and develop your understanding of issues relating to Accelerated Learning and Emotional Learning.

Tuesday: Challenging behaviour and session planning for Thursday

Wednesday: Practical skills assessment; Quick tarp shelters; knots; fire lighting and cooking; tool talks and safety procedures; this is your opportunity to demonstrate your competency in using tools and setting up a Forest Schools with groups.

Thursday: You will deliver a Forest Schools session to your peers about the ethos of Forest Schools. This will be assessed by the tutor as well as your peers, developing a strong network and encouraging all Archimedes Forest Schools Practitioners to work towards being the best they can. Individual feedback and further action planning

During the assessment period you will be required to:

- **Work through your Action Plan review**
- **Present your completed handbook required to deliver Forest Schools**
- **Demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the Forest Schools approach through your leading, observing and evaluation of 6 Forest Schools Sessions with a group.**
- **Demonstrate your ability to instruct others in safe use of tools**
- **Hand in your guide for workers and parents on the development of Emotional Awareness of young children**
- **Using your completed handbook you will work in groups to plan, coordinate, deliver and evaluate a 1 hr Forest Schools session delivered to an adult group about the ethos of forest schools.**
- **Present your personal experience log book**

Stage 6: Continued

Example scheme of work for Assessment / Development Week

Day 1	Review, Programme Planning, Assessment Brief, Emotional Learning
Day 2	Challenging Behaviour and Assessment preparation
Day 3	Practical Skills Assessment
Day 4	Assessment and Evaluations

Stage 7: Portfolio Submission

You will need to return it to us at the office address below within 3 months of the Assessment date. The completed portfolios should be submitted to Forest Schools Education with proof of postage. If the hand in date is longer than 3 months from the Assessment course date you will be charged £100.00 to re-register with the awarding body and will not be able to complete your training until re-registered.

Stages 8 & 9: Portfolio Marking and Completion

Portfolio marking and completion of qualification will take approximately 3 months from hand in date. A certificate will be sent to you from the awarding body. Your portfolio can then be returned to you. We charge £10 to send it back First Class recorded, or send it back free 2nd class.

For more information about Forest Schools, prices or our courses, please contact us at:

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