



forest schools

# **Level 1 Open Awards Forest Schools Skills Award**

## **Information**



# FOREST SCHOOLS CONCEPT



Originally a concept developed in Scandinavian countries for pre-school children, Forest Schools are currently developing throughout the UK. In Scandinavia, the children attending Forest Schools were found to be arriving at mainstream school with raised levels of self-esteem, strong social communication capabilities and an ability to work confidently within a team or independently.

The philosophy of Forest Schools is to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through mastery of small achievable tasks in a woodland environment, helping to develop a variety of life skills

including:

- **Independence**
- **Self-discovery**
- **Confidence**
- **Communication skills**
- **Raised self-esteem.**

Forest Schools, through its application of accelerated learning techniques, creates a unique learning vehicle which is used to encourage a range of community groups to utilise their local open space for interactive play, health, recreation and personal development.

For more information and case studies about Forest Schools, please take a look at our website: **[www.forestschools.com](http://www.forestschools.com)**

# FOREST SCHOOLS TRAINING

Undertaking the Forest Schools Practitioner or Assistant Practitioner Award will enable you to motivate and inspire groups and individuals to enjoy the outdoors in a safe and nurturing environment whilst providing a unique learning experience.



Continuous improvement through evaluation and review guarantees Forest Schools Education courses are up to date with any areas of specific development. These are incorporated into future training materials which ensures high standards throughout the qualification process.

All courses are run by the experienced and helpful members of the Forest Schools Education training team who provide a friendly and supportive service that will guide you through each step of your chosen qualification, allowing you to develop a thorough understanding of the ethos, management and development of Forest Schools programmes.

Accessing external funding can help to cover cost of Forest Schools courses. In the past funding has been obtained for whole courses as well as individual places. A few examples of places and organisations where funding can be found are:

- **Sustainable Development Fund**
- **DEFRA**
- **Community Chests**
- **Forestry Education Initiative**
- **Children's Fund**
- **Sure Start**
- **Community Champions Fund**

# OPEN AWARDS ACCREDITED COURSES

All our Forest Schools courses are an ideal opportunity for people who work with children, young people or adults to use the outdoor environment as a valuable learning tool. You will develop strategies, through the application of accelerated learning principles to create a safe environment in which to develop play, personal development, and education. Research has demonstrated the therapeutic benefits of the outdoor environment, especially woodlands.

- **Entry Level: Forest Schools Entry Level**
- **Level One: Forest Schools Skills Award**
- **Level Two: Assistant Forest Schools Practitioners Award**
- **Level Three: Forest Schools Practitioners Award**



# **FOREST SCHOOLS SKILLS AWARD LEVEL 1**

This course is aimed at individuals with little or no experience of working in the outdoors and aims to build knowledge and confidence in the safe use of equipment and tools.

Forest Schools Education staff will introduce basic woodland skills and individuals will be required to demonstrate a basic knowledge of the flora and fauna in a woodland area. The course will allow participants to look at using the outdoor environment as a tool to facilitate different learning styles and to develop personal skills such as confidence and self-esteem.

They will learn how the outdoors can be used to encourage all areas of development, understand factors that affect the children's behaviour and strategies for dealing with them in the outdoor environment. Participants will also learn how the outdoor environment encourages independence, self-reliance and self-esteem and promotes healthy, balanced social and emotional growth.

Course Duration: 3 days. Portfolio completion will take place during the course and be handed in on the last day.

Portfolio marking and completion of qualification will take approximately 3 months from hand-in date. A certificate will be sent to you from Open Awards. Your portfolio can be returned to you for free using second class post or first class recorded delivery for a £10 charge for packaging and postage.

# FOREST SCHOOLS LEVEL 1 UNITS

## **UNIT 1:**

### **Basic Forest Schools Practical Skills**

Learning Outcomes

Recognise risk at Forest School

Recognise how Forest School can impact on the woodland environment

Safely carry out a range of practical tasks in a woodland setting

## **UNIT 2:**

### **Introduction to Learning and Development at Forest Schools**

Learning Outcomes

Recognise how Forest Schools can support an individual's learning and development

Identify appropriate experiences that support learning and development at Forest Schools

Participate in Forest Schools and understand ways of supporting the Forest Schools Practitioner

## **See website for price information**

If you wish to receive more information about Forest Schools Practitioners Awards please contact us:

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