

13th September 2021

Today was Reception's first Forest School session! We welcomed them in and discussed with them the Forest School Promises and showed them around Forest School. We also introduced Bob, the bear. Bob likes to hear all about what the children have been up to in each Forest School session. He also likes to hear what the children have enjoyed the most or made them feel proud.

Motivation and Positive Attitude

The children were then invited to explore forest school and use any resources that were available.



Reception Class were great at waiting and taking turns on the swing!



I spotted Summer sitting at Base Camp on her own and sat down to have a chat with her. She said she was cold so we talked about her forest school kit next week and bringing warmer clothes. She suggested warmer clothes such as a hat, scarf and some gloves. I also asked her what she would like to do in forest school and she came up with some great ideas. She told me she likes playing 'tag' at home, she likes playing with the dinosaurs that we had out and that she likes to play with sand. I suggested we play with mud instead of sand in forest school and together we discussed creating a mud pit in forest school next week.

Communication and Social Skills / Motivation and Positive Attitude



Our first hot chocolate treat! Yummy!



21st September 2021



I spotted Elliott trying to reach a fallen branch on the field and pull it through the fence. We talked about the best way to get it from the field, over the fence and into Forest School, but that he might need some helpers. A few of his friends overheard and came over to help him. I encouraged the boys to talk to each other, work together as a team and give each other instructions in a helpful way. Ollie gave good, clear instructions to the others. They worked really well together and achieved what Elliott originally set out to do ☺ Great team work! **Positive attitude / Communication / Team Building**



Moving logs

When I asked for help moving some logs around forest school Saskia and Hattie offered to help. Georgia also came to the logs and sat down. As I gave them a log each, one of the girls said “Georgia won’t be able to lift any” I found Georgia one of the lighter logs and asked her if she would like to help. Her face lit up! She carried it over to Base Camp with a huge smile on her face and I motioned Saskia and Hattie to look at how strong Georgia is! **Motivation and Positive Attitude / Confidence and Self-Esteem**

Kora; “It’s a bit too heavy” So without being prompted she decided the best way to move her log from one place to another was to roll it! **Motivation and Positive Attitude / Ability to recognise and manage risk / Using initiative!**



Snack time!

After the children had their fruit snack of apples and bananas we talked about where to put the apple cores and banana skins. We talked to the children about apples breaking down and also being good for the birds to eat, but we can’t leave banana skins as their skins don’t break down. The children enjoyed throwing their apple cores outside of the boundary line and we discussed as a class getting a compost bin in Forest School.



At the beginning of each forest school session we talk about safety and ‘promises’ that we will keep. One of the promises is to look out for anything sharp or dangerous but to tell a grown up if they spot something they think might be dangerous. Jakey came to us and told us he had found a nail in a plant of wood and told us it is sharp. Great spot Jakey! **Ability to recognise and manage risk**

28th September 2021

We are encouraging the children to observe nature all around us by looking up in the trees, down on the ground, behind trees and bushes, and all around. This hunt for Gruffalo characters really emphasised the need to look all around and not simply in front of us.

Awareness and Understanding of Nature



Jack was struggling to get on the swing. I encouraged him to have a go at getting on himself before I helped him and prompted him to use the log underneath. "It's a bit shaky" he told me before going to use an alternative swing that he could get onto independently. He told me "this one is a bit lower". **Assessing Risk**
The children were great at taking turns to use the swing!



Danny and Joey – moving logs and branches to their chosen spot to build their den.

Physical skills



Some of the children needed reminding about taking other peoples resources. We talked about sharing but also that if you are using resources you don't need to give them away. The other must find something else they can use.

Communication / Social Skills

Polly, Elise and Lyla saw Mr Parsons moving a long branch and went over to help him without being prompted!

Physical Skills

Toby came to find me to tell me "There's another rule we've not said... don't touch anything poisonous"

Assessing and Managing Risk

12th October 2021

Today's session was all about twigs! The children were set the challenge to have a go at creating some twig shapes. We talked about shape names, the number of sides each shape has, the number of corners, the lengths of sides and comparing them.



I saw lots of team work and positive relationships this morning, particularly between Billy and Jakey – **Billy:** "Go on Jakey, show her your jump!" "We are taking turns [to jump on the branch]" **Jakey:** "watch out!" The boys gave each other positive praise and encouragement which was lovely to watch and listen to.

Physical Skills / Positive Attitude and Motivation / Building Relationships

