

EMBERS LEARNING COMMUNITY



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE FOUNDERS OF THE OUTDOOR LEARNING COMPANY



1 WELCOME NOTE

We're thrilled to welcome you to Embers Learning Community, a special initiative created by Liz & Justin Hannam in 2021. This offering is a cherished part of The Outdoor Learning Company, which has been nurturing curiosity and adventure since 2012.

Over many years, The Outdoor Learning Company has expanded its offerings, including preschools, holiday clubs, and Forest Schools across Hampshire. Stepping into the realm of home education has been an incredible journey for us. For Justin and Liz, this experience has been so enriching that their children have thrived without ever attending traditional school.

While our roots are in Forest School, inspired by its ethos and the joy of learning through nature, our passion for children's education and development drives us to continually learn and grow. This is more than just a job for us—it's an adventure. We've explored various learning approaches, completed numerous courses, read extensively, watched documentaries, listened to expert podcasts, and observed different teaching styles. Most importantly, we've spent countless hours with the children in our care, discovering what truly supports their learning and growth. We created Embers Learning Community to offer something unique and special to the home education community. We're excited to share this with you.

We hope you find inspiration in this prospectus and are encouraged to join us on this remarkable journey. Together, as a community, we will grow and evolve in this exciting adventure.

Justin & Ben, Founders of The Outdoor Learning Company



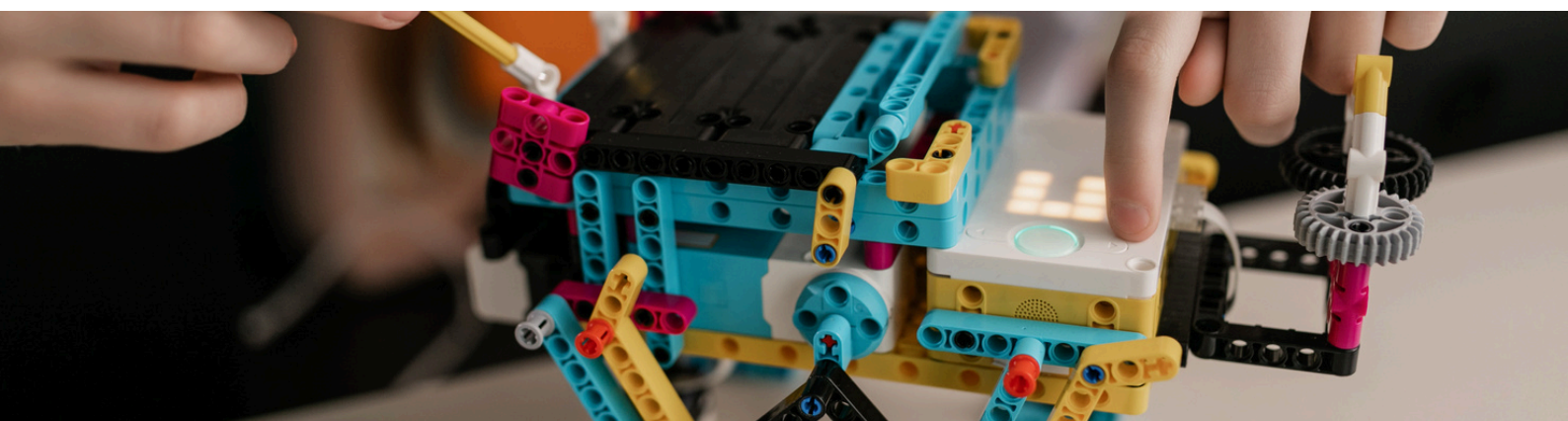
2 OUR VISION

At Embers, we create a warm and welcoming environment where children can have fun, feel valued, and develop the confidence to become resilient, lifelong learners, ready for the 21st century.

Our community is dedicated to helping children grow in all aspects of life, allowing them to experience joy, wonder, and a true sense of belonging.

Children at Embers learn through rich and diverse experiences that are centered around their interests. Whether through curiosity-driven exploration, intentional play, or time spent in nature, we aim to help them develop skills and create memories that will last a lifetime.

With the support of caring adults and their peers, children engage in cross-curricular, project-based activities. They are encouraged to follow their passions, take ownership of their learning, and express themselves in creative and imaginative ways.



3 OUR APPROACH

At Embers Learning Community, we believe that learning is a lifelong journey, shaped by curiosity, creativity, and meaningful experiences. Our approach nurtures the whole child—mind, body, and spirit—within a warm and supportive community where self-directed learning thrives.

Each day is thoughtfully structured to balance child-led exploration with adult-guided opportunities. Children engage in hands-on projects, and collaborative experiences that encourage confidence, connection, and a love of learning.

Rather than compartmentalising knowledge into rigid subjects, we integrate curriculum areas into meaningful, interdisciplinary projects. Traditional subjects emerge naturally from authentic experiences—maths unfolds in building projects, literacy blossoms through passion-driven research, and scientific thinking develops through hands-on experimentation.

For home-educating families, Embers offers a rich and diverse learning experience that complements and enhances the education you provide at home. Children engage in self-directed learning while developing social connections, emotional intelligence, and a lifelong love of discovery—all within a community that honours their individuality and respects your role as their primary educator.

At Embers, learning is more than an academic pursuit—it's a joyful, enriching journey where every child's unique path is supported and celebrated.



4 SHARING DAY

Celebration is at the heart of our learning community. We believe in taking time to acknowledge achievements, progress, and the shared journey of learning together.

At the end of each term, we gather for Sharing Day, a special event where children take the lead in showcasing their work and experiences. Whether through exhibitions, performances, music, film screenings, artwork displays, or even running a café, Sharing Day is a chance to celebrate creativity, effort, and collaboration. With guidance from our facilitators, children plan, prepare, and host the event, building confidence and a sense of ownership over their learning.

It's also a time for reflection—looking back on what worked well, what challenged us, and what we'd like to explore next.

More than just a celebration, Sharing Day marks the close of one chapter and the beginning of another. It's a meaningful and much-anticipated part of the Embers experience.



5 WORLD READY

Our aim at Embers is to have children leave us with a thirst for learning, exploration and investigation.

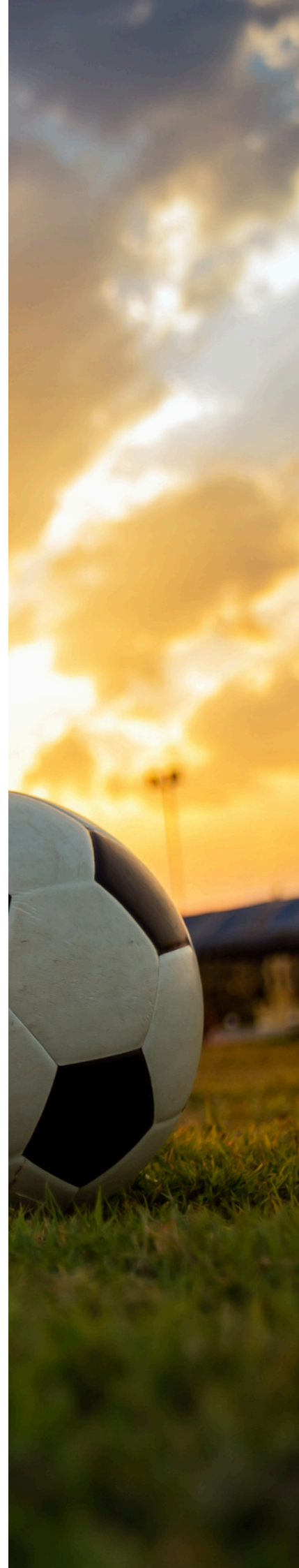
The self confidence to ask questions and challenge ideas.

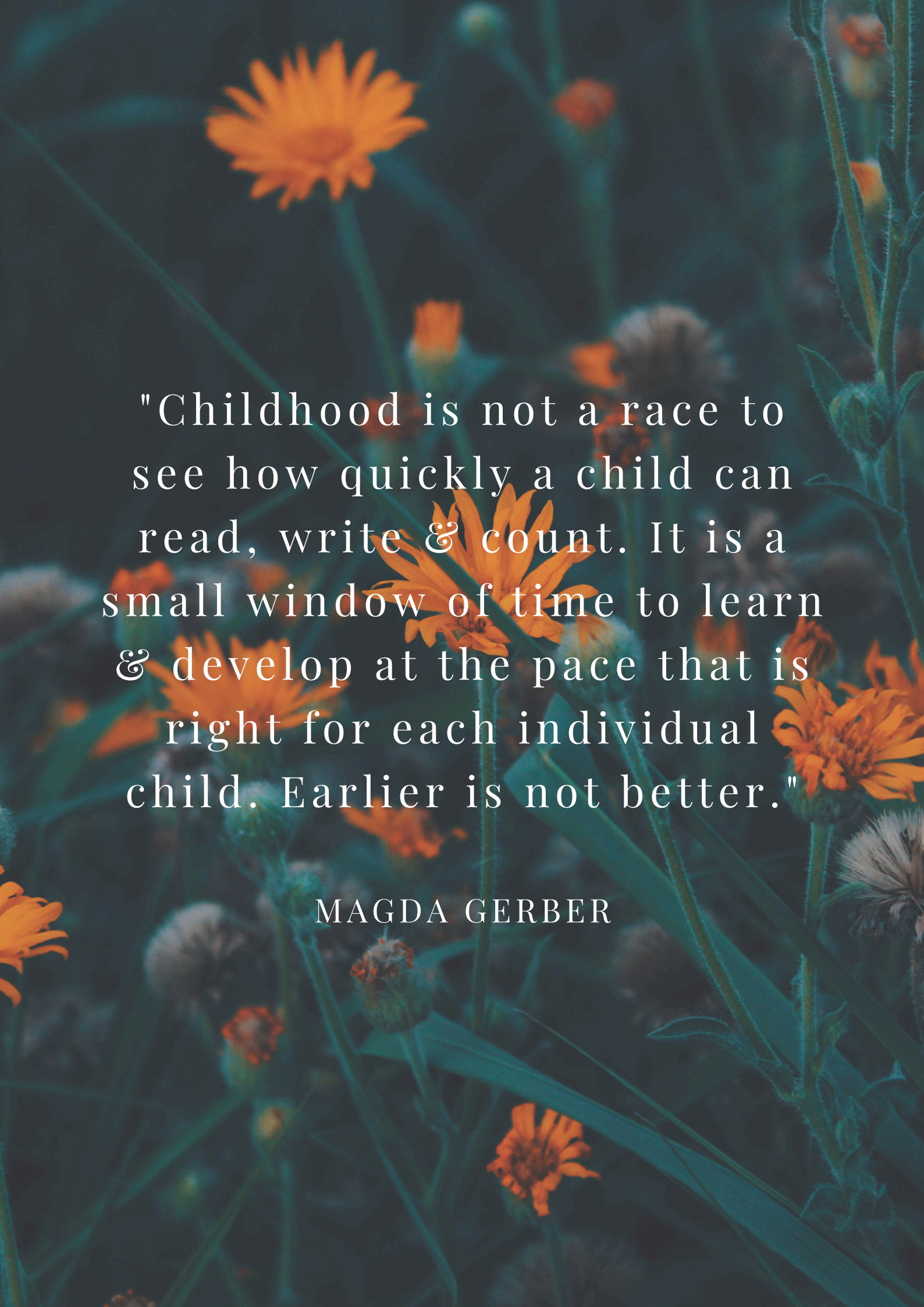
The social skills to make friends, work in groups and treat each other with respect.

The problem-solving skills needed to help with different challenges that lay ahead.

The self-regulation to control their own behaviour.

The understanding of their own emotions and those that others may experience and a physical durability for any challenges that lay ahead.





"Childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, write & count. It is a small window of time to learn & develop at the pace that is right for each individual child. Earlier is not better."

MAGDA GERBER

6 A DAY AT EMBERS

At Embers, each day flows naturally, guided by our gentle rhythm. We have just two fixed times: Arrival at 10:00 am and Home Time at 3:30 pm.

Morning Arrival:

Settle in and start exploring.

Morning Circle:

Gather to share news, plan the day, and enjoy a snack.

Project Time:

Continued work on our chosen projects.

Tidy Away:

Help clean up and get ready for the afternoon.

Lunch:

Enjoy a packed lunch, followed by time to play, explore, and rest inside and outside.

Workshops:

Join in on creative and educational workshops.

Tidy Away:

Get ready for the end of the day.

Afternoon Circle:

Share and reflect on the day's experiences.

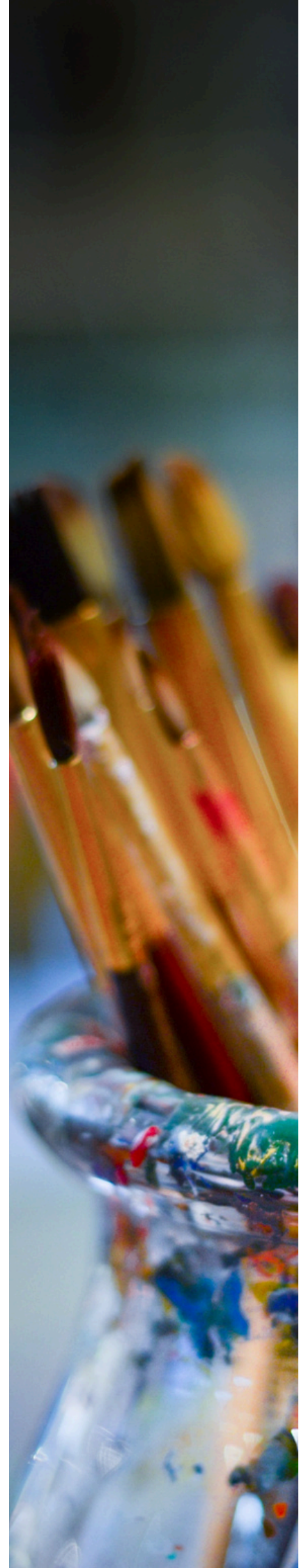
Home Time:

Say goodbye and head home.

Our flexible rhythm allows children to deeply engage in activities, rest, and play as needed.

Please bring a packed lunch, snack, and drink for your child. Warm layers, cosy slippers, and weather-appropriate clothing are also important.

Our caring team of Lead and Support Learning Facilitators, all DBS checked and first aid trained, are here to provide a safe and enriching experience.



7 FEES

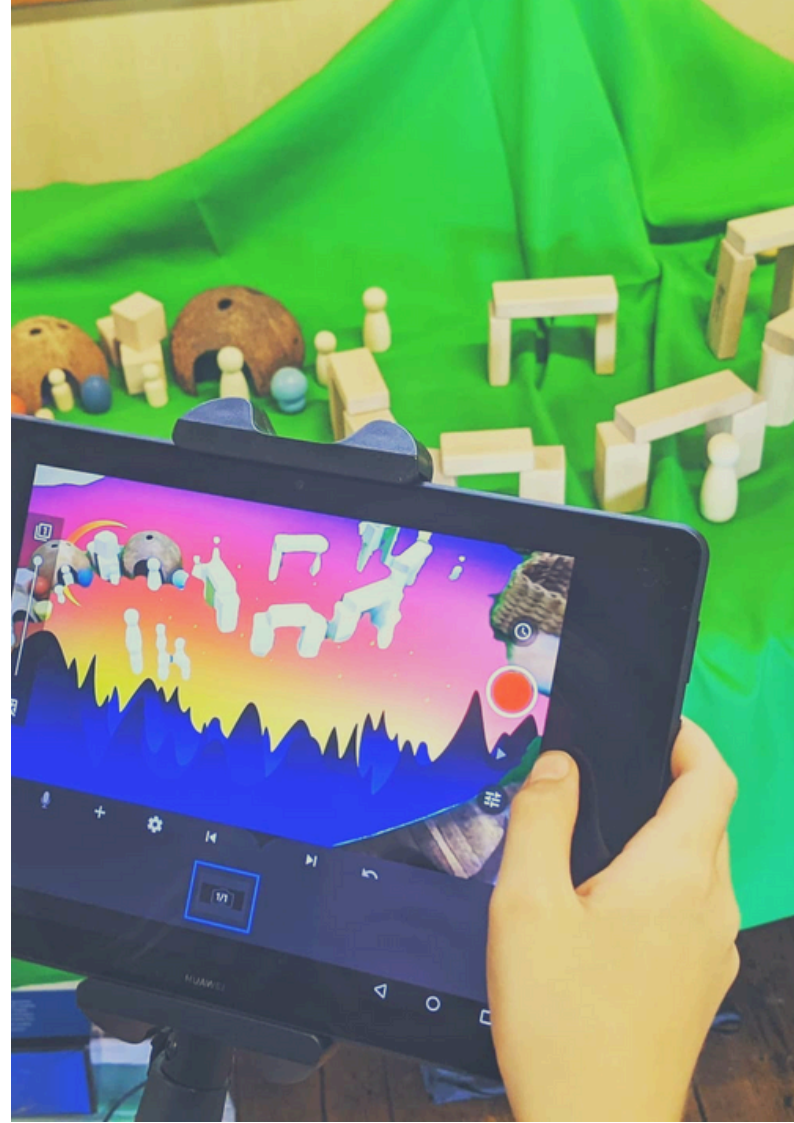
2024-2025

Registration Fee- £50 which secures an offered place at Embers.

Per Session- £43*

Fees will be paid in 12 monthly instalments of £139.75 This is based on one child, one day a week.

There will be a 10% discount applied to all siblings after the first child.



Embers is registered with Ofsted, which means that we can accept payment via Childcare Vouchers or If you are in receipt of Universal Credit or Tax Credits you maybe entitled to claim back up to 85% of the fees.

Go to www.childcarechoices.gov.uk to see what help you are entitled to.

**Our session fees include the cost of all resources, activities, materials & specialist workshops.*

"Children are born with all
the wonder they will need.
Our job is not to take
it away."

AINSLEY ARMENT



8 COMMUNITY DETAILS

About Embers Learning Community

Embers Learning Community is designed by home educators for home-educated children aged 5-14. Based in the beautiful villages of Copythorne and Bransgore, within The New Forest,.

We are Ofsted registered, fully insured, and all staff are DBS checked. Our session leaders are qualified, experienced teachers, and all staff are first aid trained, ensuring a safe and supportive space for every child.



Children can attend up to 2 days at Embers to supplement their home educating journey; unlike a school, the responsibility of the child's education remains with the parents or carers.

The day starts at 10.00am & finishes at 3.30pm.* We follow the Hampshire school terms, running 39 weeks a year.

**Sharing Day Session finishes at 2.00pm.*

Embers Copythorne

At Embers Copythorne we run on Tuesdays & Thursdays. Copythorne is within easy access from Bournemouth, Southampton, Winchester, New Forest, Totton, The Waterside, Romsey & Salisbury.

Our community is set on 3 acres of private land, with 1 main indoor learning space & 2 break away spaces, a large kitchen and plenty of onsite parking. We also run our Forest Preschool from this site, perfect for the younger children.



Embers Bransgore

At Embers Bransgore we run on Tuesdays & Wednesdays. Bransgore is within easy access from Bournemouth, New Forest, Christchurch, Wimborne, Ferndown & Ringwood.

Our community is set on 3 acres of private land, with a large indoor learning space, kitchen, private woodland with direct access to The New Forest National Park & plenty of onsite parking. We also run our Forest Preschool & Nursery 10 minutes from this site, perfect for the younger children.



9 REGISTRATION

If you'd like to join us at Embers, please email us at embers@theoutdoorlearningcompany.co.uk to start the process.

We embrace diversity and strive to support all home-educated children who wish to attend Embers. We will do our best to accommodate each child's needs, but group facilitators may need to turn down a place if they feel they cannot provide the necessary support.

We offer a free trial session to help everyone see if Embers is a good fit. If the trial goes well for the child, parents/carers, and our facilitators, we'll set up a monthly payment schedule. If we can offer your child a spot, a non-refundable registration fee of £50 will be required to secure it. Please note that if you decide to withdraw, we ask for a four-week notice period. Our Lead Learning Facilitators are always available to provide feedback at drop-off or pick-up each week.





"Children are not
things to be
moulded, but people
to be unfolded."

JESS LAIR

10 COMMUNITY COMMENTS

"Ask any Home Ed veteran parent what the most important thing they gave their children was and they won't necessarily tell you it was the freedom, or the amazing experiences, they'll tell you it was community. Growing up within a group of mixed aged children who all have such vastly different ideas and interests is how excitement and enthusiasm for new passions is sparked. What we learn from each other is immeasurable and that is what Embers offers... a chance to learn and grow into their individual selves while they are challenged, inspired and cheered for by their community.

My oldest home educated child is 15 and we've never been in school. My aim for the past 15 years was to inspire my children but also respond to their interests as quickly and actively as possible. I wanted them to be able to run with their passions and ideas, with a caring facilitator at their side guiding them along. Having multiple children and much younger siblings often makes that hard and I found frustration mounting for both my children and myself. Joining Embers meant welcoming in a team to my Home Ed journey that had the same ethos as me but all the time and resources I didn't to help me achieve my goal. My child comes home every week inspired. They work on their own ideas but are introduced to so many others that the whole family's life is richer for it. Sometimes you have an idea in your head of how Home Ed can be, the Embers team has made mine possible."

Adeola, New Forest

"I love Embers because of the freedom to be creative and have your own ideas. I love spending time with friends there and all the outside time together. The adults are amazing and it's not like school at all- it's better!"

Ethan aged 9 Bournemouth.



"Embers staff get to really know the children and embrace their interests and passions, whilst scaffolding the children to reach their full potential. I never thought my children would take part in a play, or be so genuinely enthusiastic about their projects! The balance between child-led and the rhythm of the day has been beautifully orchestrated to make children feel safe but free. Thank you Embers Team for making Tuesdays so special for my boys!"

Kate, Bournemouth

"We weren't sure how Embers would work out for our daughter as she can lack confidence sometimes but it has really been amazing for her. She has done things at Embers which she would never have tried before, I was especially amazed in the play put on at Sharing Day, she was incredibly proud of herself. It's such a lovely community for her to be part of and a great variety of activities she has been able to learn from with supportive adults and friends. She asks me all week how many days until Embers."

Sarah, Bournemouth.

"I love Embers because I have fun and see my friends. I feel comfortable."

Phoebe aged 8, Bournemouth

"What I love most about Embers is being creative all day and getting to choose if I want to play outside or in. There are always lots of different activities and I love that I get to choose for myself which one I want to do."

Gabe aged 10, New Forest

"My favourite part of the day at Embers is Project Time, where we work on our really cool projects to show our families on Sharing Days."

Agnes aged 10, New Forest

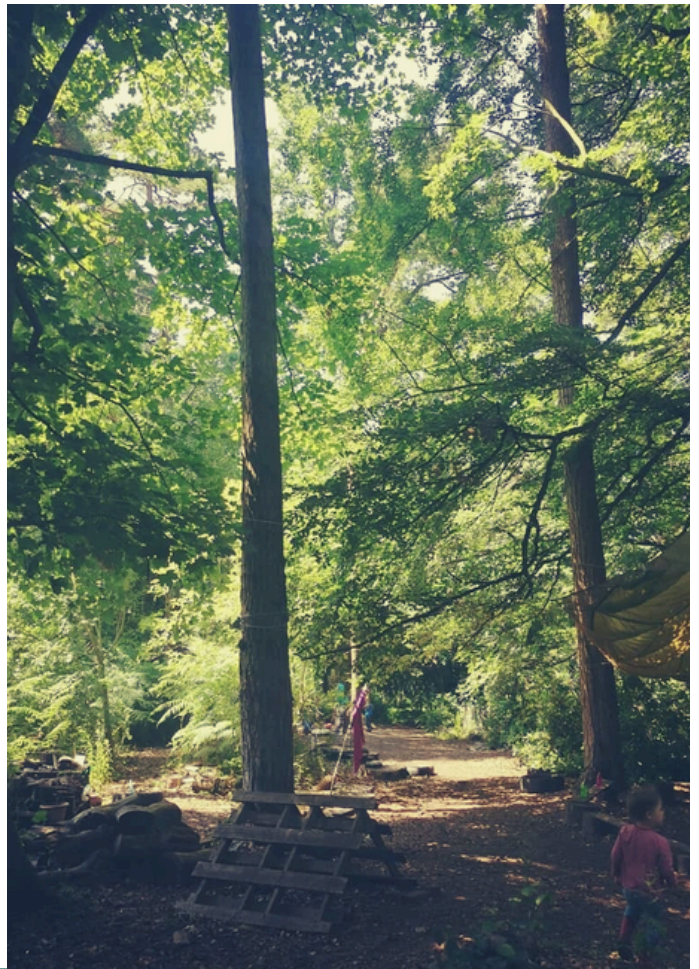


11 OUR OTHER SERVICES

At The Outdoor Learning Company, we offer outdoor sessions for home-educated children aged 1-16.

Our Outdoor Adventurers sessions for 5-11-year-olds run four days a week at the Hinton Admiral Estate, where children explore acres of private woodland. We also offer Outdoor Explorers for 11-16-year-olds on Thursdays at Hinton, with more advanced activities in nature.

Additionally, we run sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays at The Cricket Camp, River Hamble Country Park in Southampton.



Here at The Outdoor Learning Company we are lucky enough to run two Forest Pre-Schools for under 5s. Inspired by the Forest School approach to learning, your child will have a unique experience being immersed in nature, using tools and exploring the woodland throughout the seasons.

We also have Outdoor Adventurers Forest School Holiday Clubs in various locations for the over 5s. We can also host a Forest School Birthday Party at our Hinton.

For more information on any of our services please visit www.theoutdoorlearningcompany.co.uk



