

ALTERNATIVE PROVISION

a forest school setting



1 WHAT IS FOREST SCHOOL?

The ethos of Forest School is based on a fundamental respect for children and young people and for their capacity to instigate, test and maintain curiosity in the world around them. It believes in children's right to play; the right to access the outdoors (and in particular a woodland environment); the right to access risk and the vibrant reality of the natural world; and the right to experience a healthy range of emotions, through all the challenges of social interaction, to build a resilience that will enable continued and creative engagement with their peers and their potential.

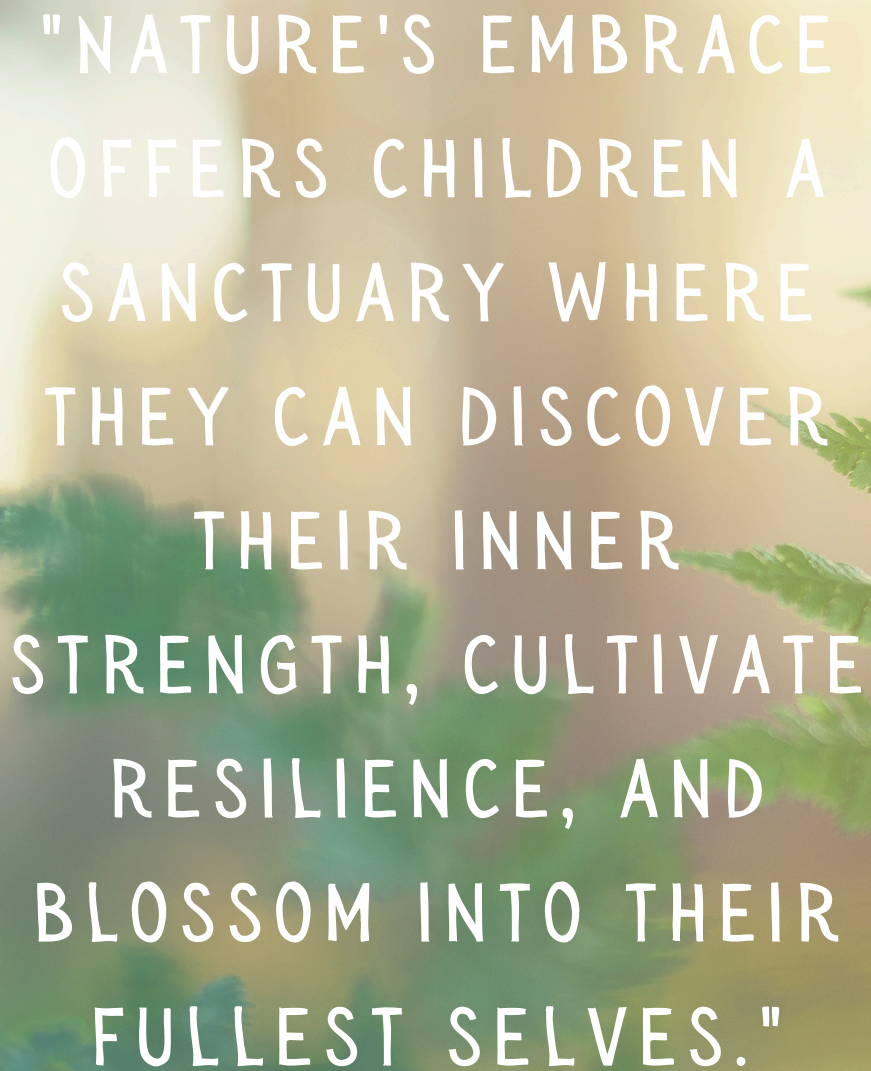
Forest School is based more on the process of learning than it is on the content - more on the 'how' than the 'what'. This means that genuine Forest School practice steps boldly out of the shadow and limitation of 'planned activities' and ventures collaboratively into the realms of the unplanned, unexpected and ultimately unlimited.

Children and young people are given encouragement to direct their own learning - this often requires catalysing on the part of the Forest School leader either through stimulating play in the outdoors or through 'scaffolding' a child's learning, but mostly through simply observing how children are in the outdoors.

Significantly, and on many levels, a woodland environment is central in supporting this very dynamic approach to learning: the passage of time, from the changing of the seasons, to the contemplation of an ancient tree; the dynamic nature of an outdoor environment - an infinite source of smells, textures, sounds and tastes; a range of visual stimuli from near to far, high to low, very big to very small; and the infinite layers of historical, cultural, spiritual and mythological significance that speak of our deep relationship with trees and woodland through the ages.*

*The information on this page is taken from the Forest School Training Company website



The background of the image is a soft-focus photograph of a forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a warm, golden glow. In the foreground, several green fern fronds are visible, some in sharp focus and others blurred, adding a sense of depth and texture to the scene.

"NATURE'S EMBRACE
OFFERS CHILDREN A
SANCTUARY WHERE
THEY CAN DISCOVER
THEIR INNER
STRENGTH, CULTIVATE
RESILIENCE, AND
BLOSSOM INTO THEIR
FULLEST SELVES."

RACHEL CARSON

2 OUR SESSIONS

Our Alternative Provision runs every Tuesday at the stunning Hinton Admiral Estate, where children can explore acres of private woodland and connect with nature.

This program is specially designed for children aged 5-11 who are unable to attend mainstream school or would benefit from flexi-schooling. While the responsibility for the child's education remains with their registered school, our sessions offer unique and enriching experiences.

With a staff to child Ratio of 1:3, and a maximum group size of 9, children will have the opportunity to use a variety of bushcraft tools, like knives, saws, and drills, in our dedicated tool work area, where they can create their own projects.

Our fire circle is the heart of our woodland community. It's a place for sharing stories, reflecting on the day's activities, and planning for the next session. We also cook together, enjoying delicious treats like pizza, soup, nettle tea, and of course, marshmallows. Kids learn different fire lighting techniques and how to build various types of campfires.

Exploration is a key part of our adventures. With so much woodland to discover, we embark on walks to find signs of spring, go on scavenger hunts, and explore new environments.

Our mud kitchen is fully equipped for making mud pies and magical potions, and climbing is encouraged with numerous trees, logs, rope swings, and a zipwire across the stream, promoting healthy, strong bodies. We are also fortunate to have a large lake for pond dipping, observing wildlife, and simply sitting still to enjoy nature.

On days when the weather is too harsh, we have shelters, a parachute, and access to a barn for some indoor activities.

Join us for an afternoon of adventure and discovery in the great outdoors!



3 OUR SESSIONS

Our sessions run Tuesdays from 12.30 to 15:30 during term time.

We start each day with registration at 12.30, then make our way to the woodland base. Here, we gather around the fire circle to check in with each other, share news from the past week, and make plans for the day.

The woodland environment is set up for children to explore and play freely, following their own interests at their own pace. Daily activities include using tools, climbing trees, getting creative, studying nature, building dens, participating in group games, and going on planned adventures.

Being in nature, connected with the changing seasons under the trees, offers a special way for children to spend their days. The opportunity to make friends and see each other weekly creates a strong sense of belonging.

Each session is unique, adapting to the time of year, weather conditions, and the children's engagement. Our sessions are child-led, and our wonderful leaders bring their own interests, knowledge, and ideas to each day.



4 ADVENTURE JOURNALS

At The Outdoor Learning Company, we use Tapestry for recording Children's adventures. Although this is essentially a tool for the early years, we feel we can adapt this for our older children. You will be able to keep track of what the children are up to during their time with us. We can take photos and add comments that will be uploaded to their journals.

The parents/carers/schools will receive an email every time an observation has been uploaded and will be able to track their time with us.





“NATURE HAS A
REMARKABLE ABILITY TO
HEAL, NURTURE, AND
INSPIRE. FOR CHILDREN, IT
PROVIDES A CANVAS FOR
EXPLORATION, A
SANCTUARY FOR
REFLECTION, AND A
PLAYGROUND FOR GROWTH.”

JANE GOODALL

5 WORLD READY

Our aim at The Outdoor Learning Company is to have children leave us with a thirst for learning, exploration and investigation.

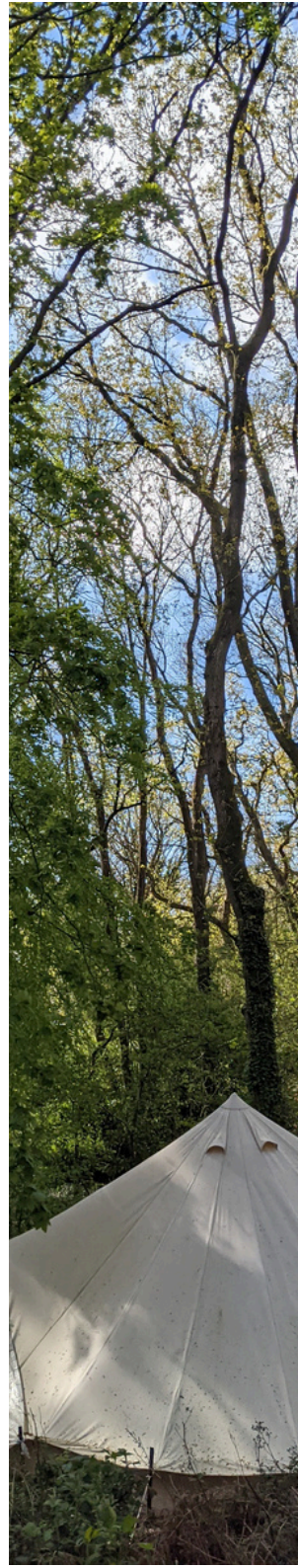
The self confidence to ask questions and challenge ideas.

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.



7 FEES

Academic year 24/25
£60 per session

Invoices are sent out half termly and we will require a 4 week notice period should you wish to terminate a placement.



We are an Ofsted registered setting, which means all of our staff undergo enhanced DBS checks, have robust policies in place to ensure sessions run smoothly and safely and our session leaders are level 3 forest school trained, first aid trained, and our services fully insured.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURERS: HINTON ADMIRAL ESTATE

Our Location

We run our outdoor adventures from the beautiful Hinton Admiral Estate, on the edge of the New Forest. It's within easy reach of Lymington, New Milton, Bournemouth, Ferndown, Wimborne, Totton, Southampton, and Lyndhurst.

Our facilities include a large barn based at East Close Farm, a 2-acre woodland base camp, and access to the private estate, which boasts a large lake and 20 acres of diverse woodland to explore. A little stream runs through our woodland, with deer passing by and buzzards soaring overhead.

We also take regular walks to our Forest School allotment, where we grow fruits and veggies and take care of our rescue chickens and ducks.



"ROOTS OF UNDERSTANDING
GROW DEEP WHEN CURIOUS
MINDS ARE NOURISHED IN
NATURE."

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9 REGISTRATION

If you're interested in joining our Alternative Provision, please email us at **admin@theoutdoorlearningcompany.co.uk** to start the process. We will then hold an initial consultation, often over the phone to make sure we are the right setting for your child.

We welcome diversity and strive to support all children who wish to attend our sessions. While we aim to make adjustments whenever possible, our session leaders reserve the right to refuse a space if they feel they cannot adequately meet a child's needs.

Once a place is offered, a registration fee of £50 will be required to secure it. A 4-week trial period will follow. If everyone – the child, parents/carers, school, and session leaders – are happy with the trial, we will set up a payment schedule. If you wish to leave, we require 4 weeks' notice. Our session practitioners are available for feedback at drop-off or pick-up each week.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



A dramatic landscape with a blue sky, white clouds, and dark silhouettes of trees and mountains. The text is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

"IF WE WANT OUR
CHILDREN TO MOVE
MOUNTAINS, WE
FIRST HAVE TO LET
THEM GET OUT OF
THEIR CHAIRS."

NICOLETTE SOWDER



WWW.THEOUTDOORLEARNINGCOMPANY.CO.UK