

# OUTDOOR ADVENTURERS

a forest school group for  
home educating children



# 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





"TO WALK IN  
NATURE IS TO  
WITNESS A  
THOUSAND  
MIRACLES"

MARIE DAVIS



## 2 OUR SESSIONS

Our popular Outdoor Adventurers Home Ed sessions run four days a week from the private Hinton Admiral Estate and two days from The Cricket Camp, River Hamble Country Park.

Outdoor Adventurers home ed sessions are solely for elective home educated children aged 5-11 years old, Parents and carers retain responsibility for their child's education.

During your child's time with us they will be introduced to a range of bush craft tools including knives, saws, and drills to name a few. Our tool work area allows for children to develop their own creations to the specifications they see fit.

The fire circle is the heart beat of our woodland. We gather round the circle to check in, this is a chance to share news, stories or items and see what is new within the woodland. At the end of the session its a place for reflection. Of course the fire circle is where we cook a range of foods as well, such as pizza, soup, nettle tea and of course marshmallows. Our children are able to explore fire lighting techniques and learn how to build different types of camp fires.

We love our explorations and being blessed with so much woodland and varying types of environments we are never short of somewhere new to explore. We go on many walks for many different reasons, whether it be on a Poo hunt or to find the first signs of spring, our adventures are not restricted to one small base.

No Forest School is complete without a mud kitchen, and ours comes fully equipped. lots of pots and pans to make a range of creations from mud pies to the latest magical potion.

Climbing is something we not only allow but encourage. The opportunities we have for this are endless. We have a number of trees and logs that the children can clamber over and climb up. We also have plenty of rope swings and even a zipwire that goes across the stream!

We understand that there are some days that will be so wet or so cold, that some children will want a break from their adventures, we have a parachute, various shelters and a barn or hall we can retreat to if the weather is severe, depending on location. At both sites, we are lucky enough to have access to a large water source, a lake at Hinton and the River at Hamble, allowing us plenty of opportunity for pond dipping, discovering different plants, finding frogs and newts, crabbing, catching butterflies and dragonflies and more. Sometimes we take the opportunity to sit still and just observe.



# 3 AN OUTDOOR ADVENTURER'S DAY

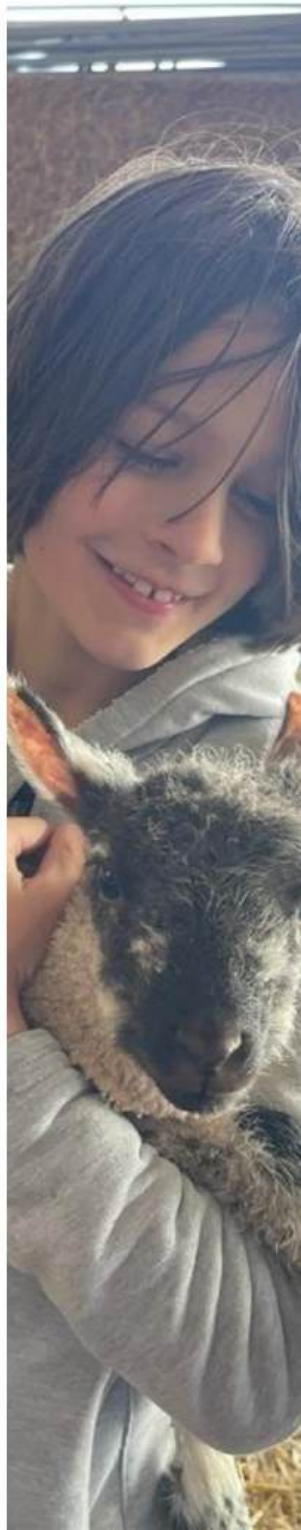
Our day runs from 10 AM to 3:30 PM during term time. We start by gathering at 10 AM for registration and then head to our woodland base. Here, we circle around the fire to check in, share updates, and plan our day together.

The woodland is set up to let children 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, playing group games, and embarking on planned adventures.

Lunch is a bring-your-own affair, and activities vary throughout the day based on plans made by our session leaders and the children.

Spending time in nature, connected with the changing seasons, offers children a special experience. Weekly interactions help build lasting friendships and a strong sense of belonging.

Each session is unique and may adapt to the season, weather, and the children's interests. Our child-led approach ensures that each session is enriched by our leaders' diverse knowledge and ideas.




# 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.

As parents/carers you will receive an email every time an observation has been uploaded and you will be able to track their time with us. You may even want to upload your own observations on your child relating to forest school activities.







"To raise a  
nature-bonded child  
is to raise a rebel,  
a dreamer, an  
innovator, someone  
who will walk their  
own verdant, winding  
path."

Nicolette Sowder

# 5 WORLD READY

Our aim at Outdoor Adventurers 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

As of September 2024

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

Per Session- £30

Fees will be paid in 12 monthly instalments of £97.50. This is based on one child, one day a week, starting in September.

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



We are an Ofsted registered setting, which means all of our staff undergo enhanced db 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.

as we are an Ofsted registered setting, We are able to accept childcare vouchers and if you are in receipt of universal credit, you may be able to claim back up to 85% of your childcare expenses.

Go to [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) to check what help you're entitled to.

## OUTDOOR ADVENTURERS: HINTON ADMIRAL ESTATE

On Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, our outdoor adventures take place at the stunning Hinton Admiral Estate, just on the edge of the New Forest. We're conveniently located for families from Lymington, New Milton, Bournemouth, Ferndown, Wimborne, Totton, Southampton, and Lyndhurst.

Our base includes a spacious barn at East Close Farm, a 2-acre woodland camp, and access to the private estate with its large lake and 20 acres of diverse woodland. You might spot deer passing through or buzzards soaring above, and we enjoy regular walks to our Forest School allotment where we grow fruit and veggies and care for our rescue chickens and ducks.

We're proud to have been running these sessions for over 9 years!





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

NELL REGAN K





## OUTDOOR ADVENTURES: CRICKET CAMP, RIVER HAMBLE COUNTRY PARK

On Mondays & Wednesdays we run from our unique outdoor setting on the beautiful River Hamble Country Park, easy reach from Southampton, Totton, Portsmouth, Romsey & Winchester.

We are based at the scout ground also known as the Cricket Camp within the country park. There is a large area with a mix of open field, Bluebell Glades and woodland where children can explore. In severe weather we do have use of their building and the facilities. There is a covered veranda where we can have lunch on wet days, and of course, there is the entire beautiful River Hamble Country Park that we can go and explore. We are sure your child's time with us will be enjoyable and inspiring.



# 9 REGISTRATION

If you'd like to join Outdoor Adventurers, please email us at [oa@theoutdoorlearningcompany.co.uk](mailto:oa@theoutdoorlearningcompany.co.uk) to get started.

We're committed to supporting all home-educated children who wish to attend our sessions. We strive to make adjustments as needed, but our session leaders may need to refuse a space if they feel they can't adequately support a child's needs.

We offer a free trial session so you can see if Outdoor Adventurers is a good fit for your child. If the trial goes well and we can offer a spot, a non-refundable registration fee of £50 will be required to secure the place. After that, we'll set up a monthly payment plan, and we ask for a four-week notice period if you decide to leave. Our session leaders are happy to provide feedback at drop-off or pick-up each week.

Feel free to reach out with any questions or to arrange your trial session.





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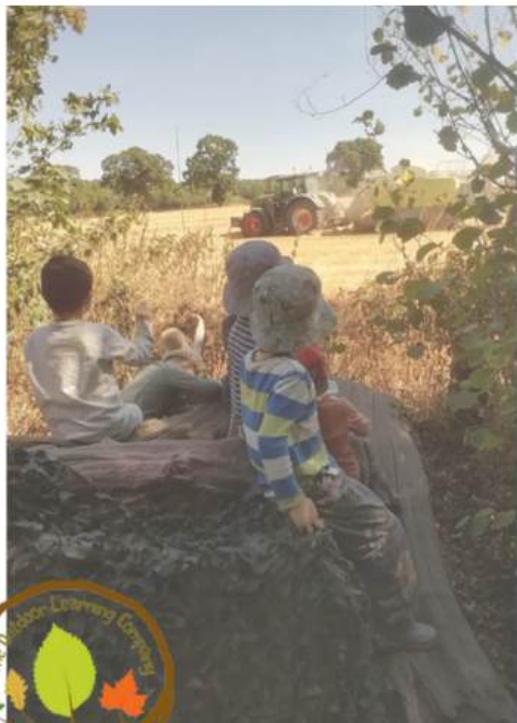
NICOLETTE SOWDER



# 10 OUR OTHER SERVICES

Many of our Outdoor Adventurers also attend sessions at Embers Learning Community, as the two programmes complement each other perfectly. Embers offers a project-based, child-centered learning environment for home-educated children aged 5-14 years.

While our Outdoor Adventurers sessions focus on nature and outdoor exploration, Embers provides a slightly more structured, predominantly indoor setting where children can collaborate on projects and engage in a variety of experiences.



At The Outdoor Learning Company, we're thrilled to offer two Forest Pre-Schools for children under 5. Inspired by the Forest School approach, our programs provide a unique experience where your child can explore nature, use tools, and enjoy the woodland throughout the seasons.

Once children reach secondary school age, they can continue their adventures with our Outdoor Explorers, which run on Thursdays at Hinton.

For those over 5, we offer Outdoor Adventurers Forest School Holiday Clubs at various locations. We also host Forest School Birthday Parties at our Hinton Pre-School venue.

For more information about any of our services, please visit [www.theoutdoorlearningcompany.co.uk](http://www.theoutdoorlearningcompany.co.uk)





[WWW.THEOUTDOORLEARNINGCOMPANY.CO.UK](http://WWW.THEOUTDOORLEARNINGCOMPANY.CO.UK)