



FOREST SCHOOL
SWANSEA • NEATH • PORT TALBOT
YSGOL GOEDWIG
ABERTAWE • CASTELL-NEDD • PORT TALBOT



Young (under 8's) children's rights and right to be heard in early
childhood practice in the context of Forest Schools

What is Forest School?

Forest School is a child-centred inspirational learning process, that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. It is a long-term program that supports play, exploration and supported risk taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting.

Forest School has a developmental ethos shared by thousands of trained practitioners around the world, who are constantly developing their learning styles and skills to support new and imaginative learners. Its roots reach back to the open-air culture, friluftsliv, or free air life, seen as a way of life in Scandinavia where Forest School began. It arrived in the UK in 1993 and has grown from strength to strength since then. [Learn more about the History of Forest School in the UK .](#)

Forest School Association

1. The Long Term Principle

Forest School is a long-term process of frequent and regular sessions in a woodland or natural environment, rather than a one-off visit.

Planning, adaptation, observations and reviewing are integral elements of Forest School.



2. The Nature Principle

Forest School takes place in a woodland or natural wooded environment to support the development of a relationship between the learner and the natural world.







3. The Risk Principle

Forest School offers learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves.



4. The Holistic Learning Principle

Forest School aims to promote the holistic development of all those involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners.



5. The Leadership Principle

Forest School is run by qualified Practitioners who continuously maintain and develop their professional practice.



6. The Community Principle

Forest School uses a range of learner-centred processes to create a community for development and learning.



A Forest School Session



A Forest School Session



A Forest School Session - Seasons



A Forest School Session - Following interests



Are we just mucking about in the woods?

Forest School Ethos

- Encourages individuality and individual interests
- Supports neurodiversity
- Creates community
- Support a child's whole development - physical and educational
- Encourages curiosity
- Democratic and based in choice
- Backed up by Play Theory, Choice Theory and continued CPD

Forest School Handbook

- Policies inc Play, Equality and Diversity, Safeguarding, Confidentiality
- Risk Assessments
- Risk Benefit Assessments
- Communication Strategies
- Woodland Management Plans
- Ecological Impact Assessments
- Emergency Action Plans
- First Aid, Insurance, Landowners permission, Food hygiene etc

Choice Theory

- William Glasser
- Choice theory states that: all we do is behave, that almost all behavior is chosen, and that we are driven to satisfy five basic needs: survival, love and belonging, power, freedom and fun.
- Focus on behaviour as needs, focus on meetings needs



The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an important, legally binding agreement signed by 196 countries (as of 12 July 2022) which outlines the fundamental rights of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities.

The UNCRC is the most complete statement of children's rights ever produced and is the most widely-ratified international human rights treaty in history.



Article 12 - Respect for the views of the child

Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously

Article 13 - Freedom of Expression

Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

Article 15 - Freedom of Association

Every child has the right to meet with other children and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

Article 23 - Children with a disability

A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community.

Governments must do all they can to support disabled children and their families.

Article 29 - Goals of Education

A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community. Governments must do all they can to support disabled children and their families.

Article 31 - Leisure, Play and Culture

Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

What would you add?

- Awe and wonder
- Fun
- Wellbeing
- Mistakes



Nature Premium

- Access to nature for all children
- naturepremium.org





Thank You!
Questions?

