

Forest School Consent

Dear Parents/guardians,

In recent months, we have been squirrelling away planning, training, and organising logistics, in order to launch our latest Holiday Club: Canal House Forest School from Summer 2022.

This provision has been specifically created for School age children with the aim to: nurture their love of nature and foster a healthy relationship with the outdoors from an early age.

The forest site that we are using is situated Within Canal House Day Nursery and is accessed via the gate from Canals House Carpark, with access to Leeds and Liverpool canal, so this offers exciting opportunities for the children to experience first-hand how we as a community can help to protect nature and act as advocates for an environmentally friendly society.

We believe that Outdoor Education should be a vital element of any well rounded learning experience for children; especially during their School years. Recent studies have shown that our emotional, spiritual and physical well-being are all effected in a positive way when we spend time in the outdoors; Outdoor Education is closely connected with positive and long term holistic development. There is also a great need for education to rise to the challenges of climate change and the ecological crisis; the children of today are going to be the adults of tomorrow and have the potential to make a positive impact on the natural world around us. It is hoped that, Canal House Forest School will provide Your Child with memorable experiences in beautiful woodland that capture children's imagination, help them to understand the world we live in, encourage them to care for it and inspire them to find a deeper understanding of themselves within it.

Our Forest school teacher, Julie, has undertaken Level 3 Forest School Training and is excited to begin to put the Key Principles that underpin Forest School into practice at Canal House.

What to expect.....

OUTCOMES

What will children get out of their Forest School experience? Examples might be team building, greater confidence, social interaction, conservation, skills, hand eye coordination, curriculum objectives; the list goes on and on.

PEDAGOGY

In a nut shell, competent and skilful teaching but beyond the Pre School classroom and 'curriculum' A pedagogue focuses more on life skills but the term is often interchangeable with teacher. Learning is child led, with facilitator supporting and guiding learning each step of the way.

SKILLS

The practitioner draws on their skills to share and is always looking for opportunities for children to learn new things. As a minimum Forest School leaders skill set include: practical knowledge and ability surrounding tools and fire, ability to carry out Risk Assessments and Environmental Impact Assessments, confidence to implement educational theories as well as carrying out all important Health and Safety checks and woodland management, to name just

a few.

SETTING

Using the setting in context. Certain woods favour certain activities. An unmanaged wood might need some conservation work so is a great setting to learn new skills whereas a mature forest with little understory could be great for run and hide games. Most woods overlap in character and change from one area to another and as the seasons change. The changeable nature of our woodland is something that we find really exciting as there will always be something new for children to experience and get involved in!

PROGRAMME

The Forest School approach is organic; led by the child, the weather and woodland itself. Whilst each session follows familiar routines; there is a distinct focus on learning through play and ultimately letting children be children in a safe environment where they are able to explore and investigate an ever changing landscape, take measured risks under the watchful, and supportive, eye of professionally trained staff.

For further information please see the Forest School Association website or speak to your child's key worker. <https://www.forestschoolassociation.org/what-is-forest-school/>

Please can you complete this form below at your earliest convenience to confirm whether you would like your child to attend Forest School Holiday Club.

canalhousedaynursery@gmail.com

Parents name

Childs Name

I agree to the terms & conditions of Forest School?

Signed

I agree for my child to take part in the forest school sessions?

Signed