

Subject: Outdoor learning

Golden Concept: Problem Solve and be Creative

Purpose:

The purpose of problem-solving and creativity in forest schools is to provide holistic learning experiences that connect children with nature, develop essential life skills, promote critical thinking, and contribute to their overall well-being.

Critical Thinking: Problem-solving activities promote critical thinking skills. In a forest school setting, children encounter real-life situations that require them to think critically and find solutions. This helps develop their analytical and problem-solving abilities, which are essential life skills.

Creativity and Imagination: The natural environment provides a rich canvas for creativity. Forest schools often incorporate activities that stimulate imagination and creativity, such as building structures from natural materials, storytelling, and artistic endeavors. This fosters a love for learning and encourages children to think outside the box.

Assessment:

Forest schools often adopt a holistic and child-centered approach to assessment, focusing on the child's overall development rather than traditional standardized testing. Assessment in a forest school setting tends to be more observational and qualitative, capturing a child's skills, growth, and experiences in the natural environment.

Peer and Self-Assessment: Encouraging children to assess their own problem-solving efforts and those of their peers fosters a sense of responsibility and self-awareness. This can be done through discussions, group reflections, or simple self-assessment tools.

Anecdotal Records: Teachers may keep anecdotal records, noting specific instances where a child demonstrated problem-solving skills or creativity. These records help build a detailed profile of each child's strengths and areas for improvement.

Cross curriculum:

By integrating problem-solving and creativity across the curriculum, educators promote a more holistic and engaging learning experience. Students not only acquire subject-specific knowledge but also develop essential skills that are transferable to various aspects of their academic and future professional lives.

Historical Problem-Solving: In history classes, students can engage in problem-solving activities related to historical events. They may analyse primary sources, consider different perspectives, and propose alternative outcomes.

Geography and Global Problem-Solving: Geography classes can involve projects that require students to address global challenges, such as climate change, resource management, or geopolitical conflicts.

Physical Education and Team Challenges: Incorporating problem-solving and creativity in physical education through team challenges and games promotes collaboration and strategic thinking. Students learn to work together to overcome obstacles and develop creative solutions to achieve common goals.

Key Stage or stage breakdown:

Bronze: Pupils begin to develop the skill of problem solving within this stage, activities are designed to encourage pupils to think outside of the box to come up with their own ideas.

Silver: Pupils become more creative during this stage. The creative opportunities allow for pupils to explore in more detail the opportunities within the forest.

Gold: Pupils use problem solving and creative skills learnt throughout the stages to create session from a leadership perspective.