

Where do nature studies fit in with Out of Classroom

Learning?

There is a growing recognition of the value of outdoor learning - not only in the area of geography or science - but also in children's broader personal development and academic achievement. Transferable skills such as independent thinking, motivation, time management, communication, team working and professional judgement were also being acquired. Socialisation and personal development skills such as well-being and trust, respect for the environment and social integration were found to increase as a result of participation in outdoor learning.

1. Pre-Visit: Planning, administration and preparation

Before the visit starts, plans will be made with the class teacher and wildlife trust officer to organise:

- The timing of the visit (planned arrivals, departures, duration of contact time and arrangements for lunch if necessary).
- The nature of the contact time including language and length of presentations or activities
- Directions to the site and instructions for coach parking (if any)
- Responsibilities for discipline, adult to child ratios and the role of accompanying adults during the visit. Discipline is usually remains the responsibility of the teaching staff and a suggested adult to child ration is 1:15.
- Clothing and equipment needs. Children need to be dressed for the outdoors.
- Guidance on what the provider expects from the visiting group. Teachers remain responsible for the discipline of their pupils, staff and helpers are expected to be involved in sessions and may be asked to lead groups, photographic consent will be requested if necessary.
- First aid, insurance and any other specific policies that apply to the activity.
- Any additional requirements regarding special education needs of any members of the visiting pupils.

Agree learning outcomes

- Shared learning outcomes should be agreed between the teacher and the provider before the session. Where possible it is

recommended that teachers visit the site and meet the provider, if this is not possible teachers and providers should ensure that the aims and objectives are clear

- Information and pre-visit materials may also be available for use before the visit.

Health and Safety

- A risk assessment and other health and safety information is available on the website.
- The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales holds appropriate public liability insurance
- First aid is provided on sites
- All staff working with children are CRB checked.

2. During the visit

- The greater part of the visit will be spent on the learning outcomes agreed and most of the day will be based outside
- The introduction will include all ground, rules, health and safety information and aims of the day.
- A high leader: pupil ratio is encouraged and therefore active involvement of the teachers and accompanying adults will enhance the visit.
- Children will be actively involved in all activities.
- Every session will vary per the group and may change on the day dependent on the children.
- Leaders will strive to encourage a sense of awe and wonder amongst the group.

3. Post visit

- Ideas for follow up activities are available on this website.
- We would much appreciate your comments and feedback so that we can offer a suitable service.