

A photograph of a young child in a blue hoodie and jeans standing in a lush green forest. The child's arms are outstretched horizontally, and their head is tilted back, looking up at the sky. The background is filled with tall green grass and numerous trees, creating a vibrant, natural setting.

FOREST SCHOOL TRAINING FOR URBAN TEACHERS & PRACTITIONERS

LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE FOR FOREST SCHOOL ASSISTANTS

COURSE OVERVIEW

WHO IS THE HIVE?



The Hive is a response to the growing disconnect from nature more and more children experience. This affects not only their wellbeing but their ability to care for the natural world and how they're able to apply the skills they develop as they grow up to the environmental challenges we all face.

The Hive is a Social Enterprise, which was founded in 2014 by Caroline Leroi. We deliver holiday camps, school workshops and Forest School training programmes in and around London.

Our mission is to help children:

- ① Spend more time outdoors and in nature
- ② Bridge the gap between outdoor learning, innovation and digital skills
- ③ Develop sustainable values and behaviours

We are Ofsted registered (registration EY497153) and have a £5m Forest School Public Liability Insurance with Birnbeck Insurance, an insurance company specialising in Forest School.

OUR FOREST SCHOOL TRAINING OFFER

We deliver Forest School Training that focuses on innovative ways to engage pupils in Forest School, particularly in urban environments where access to outdoor space is constrained.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ① Make Forest School as relevant as possible to urban schools by developing and showcasing "urban" activities and innovative uses of outdoor spaces in our training programme
- ② Help connect Forest School experiences to key curriculum outcomes (especially literacy, STEM, arts and DT) to support pupils within primary school settings, from early years to the end of KS2, to experience an enriched, broad and balanced curriculum
- ③ Build the skills that Forest School is uniquely placed to nurture in children and suggest theories, approaches and methodologies to support children's Forest School learning in this area, particularly persistence, problem-solving, creativity and collaboration
- ④ Ensure that our training programme includes approaches and activities to help children develop sustainable values and behaviours and an awareness of environmental challenges
- ⑤ Ensure that our programme has a strong element of "how to learn", not just "what to learn" by articulating the learning process, not just the resulting "products"

WE ARE ACCREDITED BY OCNWM



Our Forest School Training programmes are accredited through National Awarding Organisation OCNWM, one of the most experienced Forest School Accreditation providers in the UK.



We are members of the Forest School Association, which is the professional body and UK wide voice for Forest School, promoting best practice, cohesion and 'quality Forest School for all'.



We are members of the Institute of Outdoor Learning, who are committed to supporting and enhancing the good practice of those who work in the outdoors.

OUR TRAINING TEAM



Nicola McKnight

Nikki is a Level 3 Forest School practitioner and trainer with over 6 years of delivering Forest School programmes in school, nursery and informal settings.

Nikki is also a qualified primary school teacher who has taught in a variety of primary schools in London for 20 years, as a classroom teacher and subject leader. More recently she has been working as a nursery practitioner within outdoor nursery settings.

Her passion is driven by supporting children and adults to experience the benefits of regular learning experiences within a local natural environment. She loves being in a woodland space and enjoys helping others discover the beauty and joy of being part of that natural world using exploration and self directed play. Nikki is driven by the belief that we can all become the resilient, courageous and lifelong learners we would all like to be and that a life outdoors can play a fundamental part of helping us on that journey.

OUR TRAINING TEAM



Marlon Gibbins (internal verifier)

Marlon is an experienced Level 3 Forest School Leader, as well as a primary school teacher.

Marlon was hugely influenced by the Forest School movement and Steiner approach whilst studying for his Teaching Diploma in Denmark.

Since that time the natural environment has been an integral part of his work both in formal and informal education across London.

Marlon feels very strongly that the natural world is the perfect match for a child's innate curiosity, offering them a limitless resource for new opportunities and experiences.

STAVE HILL PARK



The Hive has a partnership with Stave Hill Ecological Park, which is where we deliver all our training programmes. We pay Stave Hill a daily rate for full access to the site.

On training days, we have full access to the site and are able to cover all skills and identification activities included in our curriculum comprehensively.

Stave Hill Ecology Park is managed by TCV Urban Ecology as a nature reserve, educational facility, research area and place of recreation. The park has been designed and managed to form a mosaic of grassland, woodland, scrub and wetland habitats which support a wide variety of wildlife.

It provides the perfect “urban” setting for Forest School Training.

THREE-STEP TRAINING PROGRAMME

Step 1	Five days of Face-to-Face Guided learning at Stave Hill Park or in your own Forest School setting	40 hours contact time with Hive Tutor
Step 2	Development of Portfolio of Evidence with support from The Hive team	8 hours contact time with Hive Tutor
Step 3	Delivery of 3 Forest School sessions , preferably working alongside a Level 3 Forest School Practitioner	6 hours guided learning hours

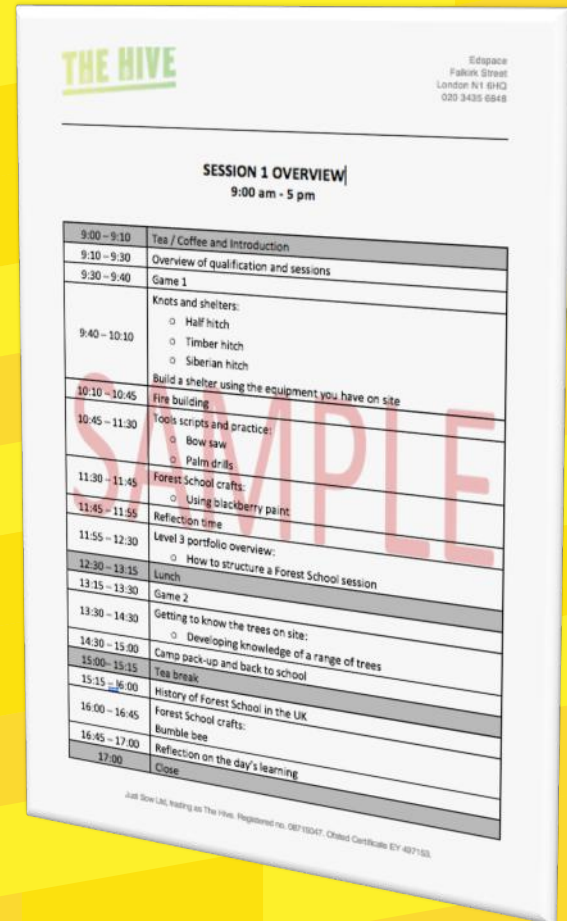
STEP 1 – FACE-TO-FACE GUIDED LEARNING

Step 1 involves five days of Face-to-Face Guided learning at Stave Hill Park or in your own Forest School setting with our Hive Tutor, Nikki McKnight.

Nikki will provide a mix of practical and theoretical learning covering the 2 units included in the qualification. Each unit is designed to help you support a Forest Schools Program in your own setting.

Unit 1 - Supporting a Forest School Programme: Learning and Development

Unit 2 - Supporting a Forest School Programme: Practical Skills



THE HIVE		Edspace Palmer Street London N1 6H2 020 3435 6648
SESSION 1 OVERVIEW 9:00 am - 5 pm		
9:00 - 9:10	Tea / Coffee and Introduction	
9:10 - 9:30	Overview of qualification and sessions	
9:30 - 9:40	Game 1	
9:40 - 10:10	Knots and shelters: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Half hitch○ Timber hitch○ Siberian hitch Build a shelter using the equipment you have on site	
10:10 - 10:45	Fire building	
10:45 - 11:30	Tools scripts and practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Bow saw○ Palm drills	
11:30 - 11:45	Forest School crafts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Using blackberry paint	
11:45 - 11:55	Reflection time	
11:55 - 12:30	Level 3 portfolio overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ How to structure a Forest School session	
12:30 - 12:15	Lunch	
13:15 - 13:30	Game 2	
13:30 - 14:30	Getting to know the trees on site: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Developing knowledge of a range of trees	
14:30 - 15:00	Camp pack-up and back to school	
15:00 - 15:15	Tea break	
15:15 - 16:00	History of Forest School in the UK	
16:00 - 16:45	Forest School crafts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Bumble bee	
16:45 - 17:00	Reflection on the day's learning	
17:00	Close	
Just Say Ltd, trading as The Hive. Registered no. 08710047. Charred Certificate Ety 487153.		

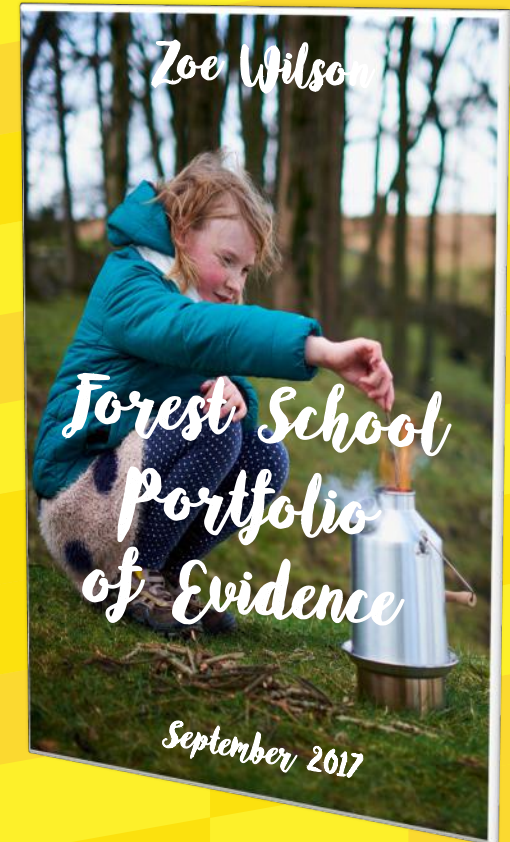
STEP 2 – PORTFOLIO OF EVIDENCE

During your first 5 days of training, you will be introduced to the Portfolio of Evidence. The purpose of the Forest School Portfolio is to demonstrate the knowledge and practical skills you have gained during your course.

It should demonstrate your experiences and and your thought processes, show what you have learnt and how you have grown as a Forest School practitioner.

The Portfolio of Evidence should include:

1. Your portfolio itself (you will be provided with a list of contents, but will be free to choose the format that most appeal to you)
2. A set of Practical Skills forms for your assessor to fill in



STEP 3 – FOREST SCHOOL SESSIONS

Once you have completed the five days face-to-face training, you will need to deliver 3 x 2 hour Forest Schools sessions over 3 weeks at your site as part of the portfolio completion.

As they take place before your assessment week, these sessions should not include tool use or fire lighting but can cover any other areas of the course that you can safely deliver with your group.



INDICATIVE TIMELINE

MONTH 1	MONTH 2	MONTH 3	MONTH 4	MONTH 5
Level 2 face-to-face training		Level 2 portfolio work Level 2 3 FS sessions being run		L2 portfolio submission