

A young child in a blue hoodie and jeans stands in a lush green forest, arms outstretched in a 'Yogi Blythe' pose. The child is looking upwards with a joyful expression. The background is filled with tall 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"

ACCREDITED NATIONALLY RECOGNISED TRAINING

	<p>Our Forest School Training is accredited through National Awarding Organisation AIM Qualifications & Assessment Group. AIM are approved by and meet the requirements of the Forest School Association. Through AIM, our Curriculum is endorsed by the FSA.</p>
	<p>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'.</p>
	<p>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.</p>

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OUR TRAINING TEAM



Sarah Belsey Lead Trainer

Louise is a qualified teacher with over 12 years experience as a Level 3 Forest School Leader. She was most recently Curriculum Leader, Head of Learning and Forest School Coordinator in an outstanding SEN school.

She also holds qualifications in Advanced Bushcraft, Wilderness Bushcraft, Youth Mental Health and Yoga Therapy. Her broad knowledge offers a unique perspective of how the forest school ethos can be incorporated into a wide range of settings.

Louise's Forest School practice has a real focus on the growth of the practitioner and developing a community of learning.

Louise is also a keen cook who understands the richness and benefits that making and sharing food brings to the Forest School experience.

OUR TRAINING TEAM



Marlon Gibbins Lead Trainer

Marlon is a qualified teacher and highly experienced Level 3 Forest School Leader. He also holds an EYTS qualification and has an MA in Education.

Marlon trained in Denmark where he was highly influenced by both Steiner Waldorf and the Udeskole movement. These cemented his love for outdoor learning and providing the inspirational approaches that now form the basis of his teaching.

He has a wide range of teaching experience in settings both in the UK and abroad and in recent years has been establishing and managing outdoor nurseries.

He has a particular interest in how the forest school ethos can be incorporated into more urbanised landscapes through innovative thinking and sustainable models.

OUR TRAINING TEAM



Serina Douglass Assistant Trainer

Serina is a qualified teacher and experienced Level 3 Forest School facilitator. Her practice is informed both by her own education in the Steiner system and her years as a primary teacher, where she saw first-hand the power of Forest School.

Much of her experience as a Forest School facilitator has been in natural woodland settings and she has seen how the opportunity to explore, risk, contemplate and challenge, creates a freedom and creativity that cannot easily be replicated in an indoor environment.

Alongside The Hive, Serina is really enjoying the opportunities and challenges of managing and coordinating her own Forest School initiative.

OUR TRAINING TEAM



Azra Kayani **Assistant Trainer**

Azra began running outdoor sessions in 2012 and trained as a Forest School assistant a year later, followed by the Forest School Leader course in 2015.

Alongside The Hive, she facilitates Forest School sessions for nursery groups, secondary schools and primary ages in South London woodlands.

Azra has also worked in inner city Adventure Playgrounds, a movement at the forefront of child led, risky play, and has experience supporting families in early years learning at Children's Centres where she established Forest School sessions for families.

She was part of a team that set up a flagship Natural Thinkers setting and has been active in several community initiatives.

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 Falkirk Street London N1 6HQ 020 3435 6848	
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 – 13:15	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. Ofsted Certificate EY 487153.	

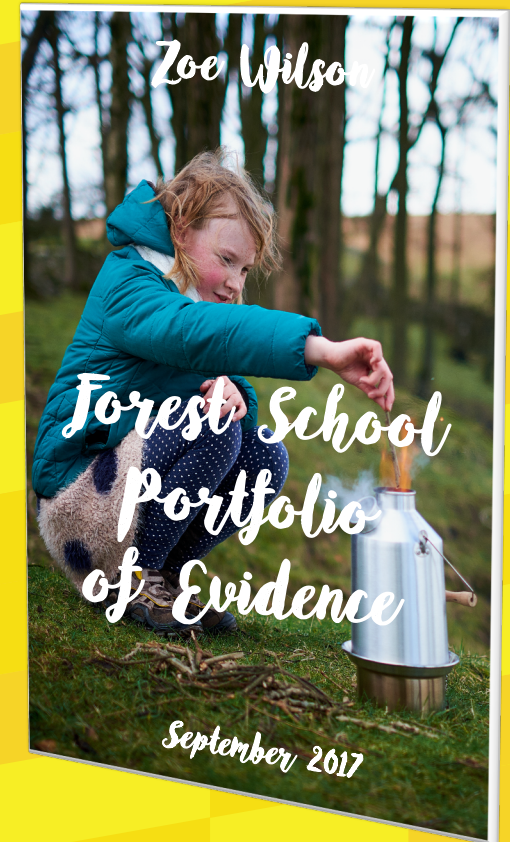
STEP 2 – PORTFOLIO OF EVIDENCE

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