



Forest School - Midterm Planning - Autumn B 2024

Class: Gruffalo

Year: Reception / Year 1

Literacy Tree: I am Henry Finch

Red and yellow flags to be put out & cable reels/ tables to be placed outside shelter before start of lesson.

Week 2 - Which substance will melt the ice the quickest?

WALT: Observe ice to find out what happens when in a warmer place.

Children enter fire circle in a line and sit on next available log. Discuss fire safety, whistle & role of flags. Discuss changing states of matter. What happens to ice when it gets warmer? Why does this happen? Show children small blocks of ice with natural materials frozen inside. How can we find out what is inside? Could we make the ice melt more quickly? Children move to log tables.

Explain children will work in groups. Each group has three small blocks of ice & three small pots, one containing sugar, one salt & one bicarbonate of soda. Children use teaspoons to put the substances on each block, making sure same substance only on each block. Discuss what is happening as ice melts. Which substance worked the best? Why do you think that? Why is the tray getting wet? Children drink hot chocolate sat at tables.

Week 4 - Can we make a bridge?

WALT: Use sticks and string to create a bridge that will carry weight.

Children enter fire circle in a line & sit on next available log. Discuss fire safety, whistle & role of flags. Explain children are going to work in their key groups to make a bridge. Children move to cable tables by shelter. Demonstrate lashing sticks together & tying double knots discussing & showing different forms of bridge children could make. Ask children to decide in their groups by discussion & voting, the shape/ form their bridge is going to be. In groups children make their simple bridges by lashing & knotting sticks working together as a team. Children & adults test the bridges using up to three bricks. Discuss: Why was this one the strongest? Why did that one not carry the weight? How could you have improved your bridge? Children return to the fire circle to drink hot chocolate.

Week 6 - Can I make a Christmas decoration?

WALT: Use natural materials and wool to create a decoration.

Children enter fire circle in a line & sit on next available log. Discuss fire safety, whistle & role of flags. Explain children are going to make a Christmas tree decoration. Move to cable tables by shelter. Demonstrate bending sticks into circle & lashing with green string. Demonstrate double knot to tie the ends to keep the shape. Demonstrate making two triangles, then lashing/ knotting together to make a star shape. Show children how to wrap the circle & star in yellow wool. Show how to add a string hanger & tie knot. Children create own stick circle or star with support as needed. Discuss: What did you find difficult to do? Why do you think it was hard? Children walk around wild area to find natural materials to decorate their circle or star & add as move around. Children drink hot chocolate. sat at tables.