



## Forest School - Outdoor Learning Midterm Planning - Spring A

**Class:** Gruffalo

**Year:** Reception/ Year 1

**Literacy Tree story:** Billy and the Beast / I want my hat back

### **Week 1 - Can you make a trail for others to follow?**

Children enter fire circle in a line and sit on next available log. Discuss fire safety, flags & what to do if whistle blows. Show children stick arrow. What is this? What can we use it for? Explain children are working in groups to create trails using arrows for the other groups to follow. Children to have STC cards to add to route. Groups go to different areas, field, wild area & sensory garden, to create their routes.

Children carousel around the arrow routes made. Children explain why they found routes easy or hard to follow. Children return to fire circle to drink hot chocolate.

**Resources** - sticks by side of shelter (please return sticks at end of session), STC position /direction

### **Week 2 - Where do bugs live?**

Children enter fire circle in a line and sit on next available log. Discuss fire safety, role of flags & what to do if whistle blows. Explain children are going to push out the pith inside elder sticks & then whittle off the bark. Demonstrate using tools, explaining how to use safely. Discuss need for safety gloves. Children put on gloves. They push out the pith using tent pegs, then whittle their elder sticks using peelers with adult support for using the tools. Children join their 'houses' together to create larger bug houses using large rubber bands. Children place their 'joined' bug houses in whole school pallet bug house. Children drink hot chocolate sat around fire circle.

**Resources** - Elder sticks, peelers, tent pegs, thick rubber bands, safety gloves (adult & children)

### **Week 3 - How do we join materials?**

Children enter fire circle in a line and sit on next available log. Discuss fire safety and role of flags. Go to tables by shelter. Discuss different materials that can be used to make houses. Show pictures of round houses and thatched cottages. Explain children are going to make small-scale round houses using card for walls and a thatched roof using dried grass. Discuss different ways of joining the card and attaching the roof. Children collect dead grasses from around wild area. Children cut card for walls & draw around pot and cut out. They cut out windows and a door and use crayons to colour in walls. They cut from outside to centre of circle, then use Sellotape/ double-sided tape/ pva glue to join materials and create their houses. Children say what they think they did well. Children return to fire circle to drink hot chocolate.

**Resources**- A4 card x 25, pencils, pencil crayons/ wax crayons, scissors, double-sided tape, Sellotape,

### **Week 4 - Can I create a tile for my house?**

Children enter fire circle in a line and sit on next available log. Discuss fire safety, role of flags & what to do if whistle blows. Explain children are going to make a tile in the shape of a house using clay. Move to tables near shelter. Model working clay & rolling out. Ask children what they think the house should look like. How can we make the tile pattern on the roof? Which natural materials could we use to make the patterns? How can we make the windows & door stand out? Use a blunt knife to cut out house shape. Next use a selection of natural materials to create pattern effects on the features of the house, using children's ideas. Children make own tiles using clay & natural materials. Ask children to tell you about their tile. Children drink hot choc sat at log tables.

**Resources** - Clay, clay tools, rolling pins, blunt knives, trays to return tiles to classroom.

### **Week 5 - Can we work together to build group shelters?**

Children enter fire circle in a line and sit on next available log. Discuss fire safety, role of flags & what to do if whistle blows. Explain children are going to explore the den making materials, including large den fabrics, giant pegs, Quadro, crates, sticks & string. Children work together in groups, making group dens. Children swap activities/ materials if time allows. Children look at each other's dens. Ask children: What do you think they have done well? Why do you think that? Children return to fire circle for hot chocolate.

**Resources** - Quadro, den fabrics, crates, giant pegs, sticks & string,

### **Week 6 - Can we make shelters big enough for whole class?**

Children enter fire circle in a line and sit on next available log. Discuss fire safety, role of flags & what to do if whistle blows. Explain children are going to use tarpaulins, tent pegs, rope, string/ thin cord to secure 2 shelters between the three cherry trees. Make shelter by tying rope between 3 trees. Then pull over tarpaulins & secure with string & tent pegs. What do we need in our shelters to make them comfortable? Children put in small tarpaulins and kneelers. Children drink hot chocolate & eat plain biscuits sat in shelter. Children help dismantle the shelter. What did you find difficult when putting up shelter? When taking it down? Did it keep you warm & dry? How could we change the shelter to make it warmer?

**Resources** - 2 large tarpaulins, 2 smaller tarpaulins, tent pegs, thin cord or string, rope, biscuits. Kneelers.