



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

**Class:** Percy the Park Keeper

**Year:** 1

**Literacy Tree story:**

### **Week 1 - How do I make a doll out of hay?**

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 straw (or hay) to make a doll using thin string to tie it together, creating a body, head, arms and legs. Children move to tables by shelter. Adults model creating a doll using hay and string. Children use materials laid out to create their dolls with adult support as needed. Children look at other completed dolls on their table. Encourage children to make positive comments about other dolls. Children drink hot chocolate sat on logs in fire circle.

**Resources:** hay, string, scissors,

### **Week 2 - Can I create a flag & colour it with mud paint?**

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 flags for a castle or tower. What could your flags look like? How could you colour them? Discuss children's ideas. Children move to log tables. Children draw their flags on A5 thin card using pencils. Show children pots of different types of soil /compost. Children add small amount of water to the pots and stir with sticks to create mud paint. They then use paint brushes and the mud paint to complete their flags for the castle. Sellotape onto small sticks. Children drink hot chocolate sat at log tables. Discuss children's flags. Explain why you drew...? Can you tell me about...?

**Resources:** A5 card, pencils, 3 pots per group filled with either soil, compost & clay, paint brushes, small sticks x 30.

### **Week 3 - Can we make a bridge to cross the moat?**

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 bridge. Which materials could we use? Why do you think these materials would be suitable? Children move to tables by shelter. Model tying 2 sticks together in a X shape, reminding how to tie a double knot. How could we use this? Explain children are going to make bridges using sticks & string & then test them using bricks as weights. Discuss shape of bridges. Which shape would make the strongest bridge? Why? Discuss using an A shape at each end. Remind of & model tying double knots. Children work together in teams to create their bridges tying knots with growing success & supported as needed. Test strength of each bridge using up to 3 bricks. Discuss why bridges worked / didn't work. Children return to fire circle to drink hot chocolate.

**Resources:** sticks, string, 3 bricks

### **Week 4 - Can we make paper straws fly?**

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. Tell children they will be using a bendy stick to create a 'bow'. Explain children are going to make a small saw cut, (not going all the way through their stick), in each end with adult support. Children move to tables by shelter. Discuss & put on safety gloves. Demonstrate using junior hacksaw to make a small cut/notch in each end of the stick. Show children how to add thin string tying double knot on each end of bow. Children out on gloves, then use junior hacksaws to make cuts with adult support. They knot thin string around one cut, bend stick and tie knot around cut at the other end to create a bow. Discuss safe use of bow and arrows. Children try out their bows using paper straws as arrows. Children return to fire circle to drink hot chocolate. Do the paper straws work well? Why? Why not?

**Resources:** bendy sticks x 30, thin string, paper straws, safety gloves (adult & children), junior hacksaws,

### **Week 5 - Can we make a zip wire**

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 pulleys, ropes and buckets to rescue a teddy/doll. Ask children: How can we use pulleys? Discuss children's ideas. Explain children are going to set up ropes & a bucket between two of the cherry trees to 'rescue' a teddy or doll. Show children a pulley. Explain these can be used to make the bucket move. Children move to cherry trees. Split children into two groups. With adult support the children attach the bucket to ropes & pulleys to make the bucket move. Place teddy in bucket & try to rescue it by moving from one tree to the other. Second group. - place a rope over a branch of tree next to hut (by nursery) with a bucket tied to end. Place a brick in the bucket. Challenge children to lift the bucket by pulling it up. Do not tell them where to stand to have most impact.

Groups swap over.

**Resources:** pulleys, ropes, 2 buckets, teddy or doll.

### **Week 6 - Can we weave a pattern?**

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 create a largescale weaving on the boundary fence. Discuss materials we could use for ribbon. Children move to log tables. Tell children they are going to use plastic bags that need to be cut up first. Children use scissors to cut up bags into long strips with adult support. Children move to fence. Working in groups of 3 or 4, children weave their ribbons through the wire fence to create one continuous weaving. Children return to fire circle. Discuss the weaving. What do you like about it? How could you improve it? Children drink hot chocolate sat on logs.

**Resources:** plastic shopping bags, (different colours if possible), scissors