



## Forest School - Outdoor Learning Midterm Planning Autumn A 2024

**Class:** Gruffalo

**Year:** Reception / Year 1

**Literacy Tree story:** Cave Baby

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

**Week 2 - What can I find on my journey?**

**WALT: Create a journey stick and collect natural materials.**

Children enter fire circle in a line and sit on next available log. Discuss fire safety, whistle & role of flags.

Ask children what is a journey? Discuss children's ideas & explain meaning of word. Ask children: When have you been on a journey?

Tell children they are each going to have a stick and some wool to make a journey stick.

Show children how to tie wool onto stick and then wrap the wool around the stick and add different natural materials as they wrap.

Children look around wild area, field and sensory garden, adding in interesting natural materials they find. Children return to fire circle to drink hot chocolate. Ask children to talk about one item they have collected on their journey stick.

**Resources:** 30 x straight sticks approx. 30cm long, wool, cups, hot chocolate, 2 x flasks

**Week 4 - Can I make a bark rubbing?**

**WALT: Create a leaf using a bark rubbing**

Children enter fire circle in a line and sit on next available log. Discuss fire safety, whistle & role of flags.

Discuss different parts of a tree, (leaves, branches, trunk, roots) and what each part does.

Discuss woodland habitats. What might you find in a woodland? Can you name animals you might find in the day? Which animals could you find at night?

Explain, children are going to make bark rubbings using wax crayons on one piece of A4 paper.

Tell children they will need to take their time and use the crayons carefully on the side.

Children collect one leaf after making bark rubbing. Children go to log tables. They use pencils to draw around their leaf. They then cut out their leaf from bark rubbing using scissors. Look at Children's patterns. They drink hot chocolate sat at log tables.

**Resources:** A4 paper, fat wax crayons x 30, pencils, scissors, cups, hot chocolate, 2 x flasks

**Week 6 - Is it dark or light?**

**WALT: build a shelter to find out which fabrics let in light, and which fabrics don't**

Children enter fire circle in a line and sit on next available log.

Discuss fire safety, whistle & role of flags.

Discuss source of light in the day and at night. Children move to shelter. Explain children are going to make tepee shaped shelters using sticks, string & tying double knots. The children will then cover their 'tepees' in different den fabrics. Explain children are going to test which fabrics let light in, and which ones keep the tepee dark. Demonstrate making tepee shape with sticks and tying together using string and double knot. Children work in keyworker groups to create their own tepees. They choose den fabric to cover and test, then change fabrics. Discuss why the different materials did or didn't let light through. Children return to fire circle to drink hot chocolate.

**Resources:** 12+ long straight sticks, den fabrics of different thicknesses, string

**Week 8 - Can I frame my collage?**

**WALT: Create a group collage and stick frame of a nocturnal animal.**

Children enter fire circle in a line and sit on next available log.

Discuss fire safety, whistle & role of flags.

Ask children what a collage is? Explain children are going to work in keyworker groups to make collages of a nocturnal animal. Ask children to name nocturnal animals/birds. Show images of different woodland nocturnal animals/birds. Model lashing and tying knots to create a frame. Children work in groups using sticks & string to create group frames with adult support.

Children go to wild area, adventure playground & field to collect natural materials to make collages. Children create collages on cable reels/ table of one nocturnal animal around the shelter using their group frames and images as support.

Children look at other group's collages saying what they like about them and why they like them. Adult's look at children's frames & say what they have done well when lashing / knotting & what they need to improve. Children drink hot chocolate stood around table/ cable reels.