

Forest School Level 3 Qualification Criteria

Assignment One – The Woodland Environment – due two months after course date

- Compare the structures and biodiversity of native broadleaf and coniferous woodland ecosystems.
- Explain why flora and fauna identification is important for the Forest School leader.
- Describe woodland management methods and their significance to sustainability.
- Explain ways to involve participants in sustainable woodland management on a Forest School site.
- Evaluate research articles on the benefits of connection with woodland environments on wellbeing.
- Explain how Forest School nurtures connection between participants and the woodland environment.

Assignment Two – Forest School Handbook – due by start of pilot sessions

Create a handbook containing the underpinning documents required for a Forest School programme. This must include:

- Comprehensive risk assessments for your site and activities
- Risk benefit analysis for fire, den building and tool use
- A Forest School communication strategy which sets out how you will communicate with parents, teachers, land owners, other adults supporting your sessions.
- Relevant policies and procedures in line with statutory requirements, including documents that underpin good practice for own Forest School programmes.

Assignment Three – Preparation for your pilot sessions – due by start of pilot sessions

- Explain the role of the Forest School programme leader.
- Identify local Forest School practice and networks.
- Identify a range of woodland flora and fauna for own site, detailing identifying characteristics for each species.
- Assess the ecological impact of running Forest School programmes on own site.
- Use the ecological impact assessment to create a three- year management plan for the sustainable use of own Forest School site and to enhance biodiversity.

Assignment Four – Pilot Sessions: Understanding the Forest School principles and demonstrating the Forest School ethos – due 8 months after course date

- Plan the first session of your pilot ‘Introduction to Forest School Programme.’
- Explain the rationale of own Forest School pilot programme, showing links to own client group’s learning and development needs.
- Summarise how the Forest School principles apply to own pilot programme.
- Summarise recognised theories of learning and development relating to own pilot programme.
- Lead a pilot programme of six sessions, demonstrating flexibility in response to individuals’ needs.

- Observe three individuals and assess the impact of your pilot programme on their learning and development.
- Make recommendations for progressing three individuals' learning and development as the programme continues.
- Evaluate each Forest School session, showing how observations and evaluations inform future session plans.
- Carry out a summative evaluation at the end of the pilot programme, explaining how this will inform your long term Forest School strategy.
- Explain, giving examples, how play and choice are integrated into own pilot programme.

Assignment Five

Section 1 – The Benefits of Forest School – due 10 months after course date

- Give examples of ways in which Forest School encourages physical development and physical wellbeing.
- Give examples of ways in which Forest School encourages social and emotional development and wellbeing, including: self-esteem, confidence, emotional intelligence, resilience and spiritual development.
- Give examples of ways in which Forest School encourages intellectual development, including creativity and independent learning.
- Explain how Forest School promotes appropriate risk taking and how this impacts on learning and development.
- Summarise the key characteristics of play and its role at Forest School.

Section 2 – Forest School and behaviour – due 10 months after course date

- Summarise some of the key influences that affect the behaviour of all participants at Forest School.
- Explain how any participant's behaviour can impact on their learning and development and that of others at Forest School.
- Describe how meeting the needs of all participants develops a community of learning, giving examples from own experience of Forest School.

Assignment Six – The development of Forest School and your own development as a Forest School Leader – due one year after course date

- Summarise own personal development and learning journey through the Forest School training process.
- Explain how own experience of Forest School training may inform own wider practice and professional development.
- Summarise the key factors that have influenced the development of Forest School.
- Evaluate one piece of research on Forest School.

Practical Skills

Section 1 – Written answers to be completed before your practical skills assessments.

- Explain how to facilitate correct use of PPE with client group.
- Explain how to facilitate the safe checking, cleaning and storage of tools, ropes and cords with client group.
- Demonstrate and explain how to facilitate with client group(s) the safe use of a range of hand tools.
- Demonstrate and explain how to facilitate with client group(s) the tying and use of range of knots for different applications at Forest School.
- Explain how to facilitate with client group(s) the making of a range of different items using natural woodland materials.
- Explain how to facilitate with client group(s) the safe erection of temporary group shelters using tarpaulin and/or woodland materials.
- Demonstrate and explain how to facilitate safe use of a campfire with client group(s).
- Explain how to facilitate safe campfire cooking with your client group.
- Explain how to facilitate the safe extinguishing of fire with your client group.

Section 2 – Skills to be assessed during training week and practical skills assessment days (no written work required)

- Select and use appropriate protective equipment (PPE) and personal clothing for working in a range of situations at Forest School.
- Safely use different hand tools for a range of applications at Forest School
- Explain safe use of a range of tools to client group.
- Tie and use a range of knots, selecting ropes/cords for different applications at Forest School.
- Safely make a range of craft items using woodland materials.
- Erect temporary group shelters using tarpaulin/natural woodland materials.
- Safely site, build, light and manage a campfire suitable for purpose.
- Cook on a campfire using a range of methods, with due regard to basic food hygiene and safety.
- Extinguish a fire and leave the site safe.