

Shelter Building

Shelter Building – AM or PM session suitable for Y2 children only

Requires an adult to child ratio of 1:6

Children work in groups to plan and build a shelter in the forest using natural materials, imagining that they must stay inside it overnight. Before beginning to build they will be asked to agree some safety rules for this activity. Once built, they will be allowed inside their shelter and may be asked to carry out a self or peer assessment of their team work and finished shelter.

Learning objectives

- to collaborate with others in a group to solve a problem or make a decision
- to develop some of the skills involved in group work, such as negotiating, problem-solving, debating
- to reflect on their participation and communication

Some suggestions for visit preparation

1. Ask children to discuss what makes a good team player.
2. Get children to think about some safety rules for shelter building in the forest.

Follow on suggestions

1. Design the tallest structure you can in the classroom using only newspaper.
2. Ask children to reflect on how well their team worked together.

National curriculum links

PSHE guidance

- equip pupils with a sound understanding of risk and with the knowledge and skills necessary to make safe and informed decisions

Design and Technology

Make

- select from and use a wide range of materials and components, including construction materials, textiles and ingredients, according to their characteristics

Evaluate

- evaluate their ideas and products against design criteria

Technical knowledge

- build structures, exploring how they can be made stronger, stiffer and more stable



EVENT SPECIFIC RISK ASSESSMENT

Visit details: Shelter Building

Carried out by: Suntrap

Date: December 2017

Issue	How to manage it
Understanding/behaviour	Class teacher to advise Suntrap staff of any children who may need extra support out in the forest to help them to follow instructions. School to ensure that there is an appropriate adult: child ratio as required.
Medical conditions	Suntrap staff to check that school staff brings medication out into the forest. All adults to be made aware of any medical conditions. Suntrap staff will carry a first aid kit.
Getting lost	Keep within sight of teacher/adult & observe boundaries as directed by the staff.
Choking/Poisoning	No eating outside unless directly instructed by Suntrap staff.
Falling branches	During extreme weather conditions, Suntrap staff will make an assessment to ensure it is safe to enter the forest.
Injury from horses/dogs or bikes	Group to be instructed to stand to the side, be quiet and still when horses, dogs or bikes are near.
Accident when crossing the road	Group to be instructed on follow safe procedures for crossing roads (Suntrap Line). No one to walk across the cattle grid.
Injury through falling & throwing	Climbing of trees and throwing sticks/stones prohibited.
Injury from collapsing shelter	Children will be instructed to not enter their shelter until an adult has deemed it safe. Branches should not be added to or taken off the shelter while someone is inside.
Getting wet/cold	Clothing should be appropriate for weather conditions. i.e hat, coat and gloves. Wellies should be worn when walking through stream.
Soil borne disease	Children instructed not to put fingers in mouth during/after activities which include handling plants, soil and sticks. Hands should be washed with warm soapy water before eating lunch/snack.
Injury from picking up branches/sticks	Children instructed to do the following: lift heavy branches with 2 or more people, check they have adequate space before turning with long branches, do not take live branches off trees and do not snap wood.