

Outdoor Learning



First & Second Level

This learning journey helps pupils to explore their playground or local greenspace to help them discover more about nature close to home. It is designed to be delivered entirely in the outdoors.

Curriculum links

First Level:

I can describe and recreate the characteristics of my local environment by exploring the features of the landscape.

SOC 1-07a

I can consider ways of looking after my school or community and can encourage others to care for their environment.

SOC 1-08a

I can explore examples of food chains and show an appreciation of how animals and plants depend on each other for food.

SCN 1-02a

I can help to design experiments to find out what plants need in order to grow and develop. I can observe and record my findings and from what I have learned I can grow healthy plants in school.

SCN 1-03a

I can estimate how long or heavy an object is, or what amount it holds, using everyday things as a guide, then measure or weigh it using appropriate instruments and units.

MNU 1-11a

Second Level:

I can discuss the environmental impact of human activity and suggest ways in which we can live in a more environmentally-responsible way.

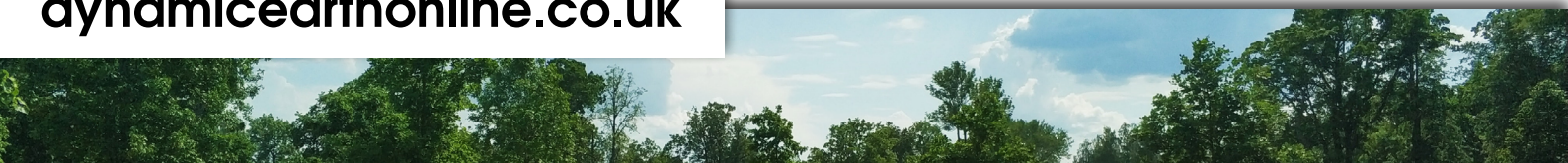
SOC 2-08a

I can use my knowledge of the interactions and energy flow between plants and animals in ecosystems, food chains and webs. I have contributed to the design or conservation of a wildlife area.

SCN 2-02a

I can use the common units of measure, convert between related units of the metric system and carry out calculations when solving problems.

MNU 2-11b



1. Introduction to the outdoors

Use our wildlife watch bingo cards to get your pupils exploring your playground or local greenspace: [Resource](#)

Encourage pupils to use all their senses while exploring your playground. This activity gets pupils thinking creatively and using their hearing to explore the natural world. [Resource](#)

Go on a storytelling walk using nature as inspiration! [Resource](#)

2. Animals

Go on a minibeast hunt to find out what creepy crawlies live in your greenspace! Use our guides to see what you can spot in different seasons. Then make a pine cone spider! [Resource](#)

Animals can be really hard to spot but if you look carefully you can find their homes. Go on a walk and use our spotters guide to find them. [Resource](#)

Build a food web to explore how plants and animals are interconnected in an ecosystem! Play Oh Deer! to help pupils learn how food webs are interconnected. [Resource](#)

3. Plants

Find out why pollinators are so important and grow your own plant. [Resource](#)

Learn some clever tricks to find out how tall and how old trees are without cutting them down! [Resource](#)

Use leaves and other found items to make leafy artwork! [Resource](#)

Lichens are amazing and grow almost anywhere so even the sparest of playgrounds will have them. Explore how symbiotic relationships work, use lichens as a compass and even make your own lichen. [Resource](#)

4. Protect

Complete a litter pick in your area and then explore why plastic litter is especially problematic. [Resource](#)

Watch the video on the greenhouse effect. What changes might happen in your area because of a warming climate? Think back to the food web you made! [Resource](#)

Watch the stop motion video on rewilding. Then make your own stop motion film or a poster showing what you think it might look like if your playground or local greenspace was rewilded! [Resource](#)