

Progression Skills at Forest School

Reception

- Introduction to rules/boundaries/format of sessions
- Promotion of independent learning opportunities/skills
- Introduction of basic real tools – hammers, mallets, trowels and forks
- Introduction of basic shelter building with support
- Safety procedures
- Promotion of free exploration
- Introduction to fire safety – 1:1 – toasting marshmallows

Year 1

- Re-enforcement of rules and boundaries
- Continuation of the use of basic tools, small ropes and independent cutting of string
- Introduction to basic knots e.g. reef knot
- Supported construction of tripod structures on a small and large scale
- Continuation of fire safety – 1:3 – toasting marshmallows

Year 2

- Re-enforcement of rules and boundaries
- Continuation of the use of basic tools, small ropes extending to medium strength
- More sophisticated use of knots for attaching to structures, trees etc e.g. clove hitch
- Independent construction of tripod structures
- Introduction of lashing and frapping techniques to make frames
- Continuation of fire safety – 1:4 – toasting marshmallows

Year 3

- Re-enforcement of rules and boundaries
- Continuation of the use of basic tools
- Introduction of larger ropes whilst being able to distinguish between the different torques
- More sophisticated use of knots for attaching to structures, trees etc
- Lashing and frapping frames and dual structures – attaching hessian using knots e.g. square lashings
- Introduction of hand drill, peeler and secateurs – 1:1 support
- Continuation of fire safety – 1:4 – marshmallows plus another cooking activity

Year 4

- Re-enforcement of rules and boundaries
- Continuation of the use of basic tools and larger ropes
- Continued more sophisticated use of knots for attaching to structures, trees etc
- Further extend lashing and frapping techniques on a smaller scale at an independent level
- Continue to use hand drill, peeler and secateurs together with the Introduction of hack saw/saws/loppers/secateurs/whittling using knives 1:1 support
- Continuation of fire safety – 1:4 – marshmallows plus another cooking activity

Year 5/6

- Re-enforcement of rules and boundaries
- Continuation of the use of basic tools and larger ropes
- Continued more sophisticated use of knots for attaching to structures, trees etc

- Further extend lashing and frapping techniques on a smaller scale at an independent level
- Continue to use hand drill, peeler and secateurs together
- Introduction of hack saw/saws/loppers/secateurs/whittling using knives 1:1 support
- Continuation of fire safety – 1:4 – children to use flints to start and manage their own fires

Please note that this is a guide. Forest School is child-led so children may be moved on sooner depending on their ability. For example children may use tools sooner than stated depending on their experience, ratios of children to adults and their awareness of risk.