



Progression Skills at Forest School

Reception

- Introduction to rules/boundaries/format of sessions
- Promotion of independent learning opportunities/skills
- Introduction of basic real tools – wooden mallets and nails, trowels and forks, potato peelers, apple spiralizer
- Introduction of basic shelter building with support
- Introduction of safety procedures including pond safety
- Learning how to be safe around the fire circle including when individually cooking with support
- Promotion of free exploration
- Introduction of whittling skills using easy-grip potato peelers
- Basic seed planting

Year 1

- Re-enforcement of rules and boundaries
- Continuation of the use of basic tools including the introduction of mallets, small ropes and independent cutting of string
- Introduction to basic knots
- Supported construction of tripod structures on a small and large scale
- Continue to be safe around the fire circle when individually cooking a variety of items with support
- Continuation of whittling skills using knife potato peelers
- Introducing basic gardening skills – planting, caring for, collecting seeds or fruit

Year 2

- Re-enforcement of rules and boundaries
- Continuation of the use of basic tools, introducing metal hammers and nails for project work, small ropes extending to medium strength
- Introduce fire starters flint and steel with 1:1 support
- More sophisticated use of knots for attaching to structures, trees etc
- Independent construction of tripod structures
- Introduction of lashing and frapping techniques to make frames
- Continue to be safe around the fire circle when individually cooking a variety of items with support
- Identification of pond habitats with use of nets
- Continuation of gardening skills – looking after plants throughout their life cycle

Year 3

- Re-enforcement of rules and boundaries
- Continuation of the use of basic tools for more detailed project work
- Introduction of larger ropes whilst being able to distinguish between the different torques
- More sophisticated use of knots for attaching to structures, trees etc
- Introduction of pulley systems

- Lashing and frapping frames and dual structures – attaching hessian using knots
- Introduction of hand drill, bow saw, secateurs and pen knives – 1:1 support
- Introduction to site management including coppicing and pruning
- Continue to be safe around the fire circle when individually cooking a variety of items with support
- Continuation of gardening skills – planting bulbs, preparing flowerbeds, weeding

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, bow saw and secateurs together with the introduction of hack saw/loppers/secateurs/whittling using knives 1:1 support
- Continue to be safe around the fire circle when individually cooking a variety of items with support
- Continuation of site management skills
- Continuation of gardening skills – planting and caring for a variety of plants, harvesting and preparing seeds for next season