

Teacher Training: Making the most of the nature on your doorstep- workshops from the We're in the Wild project

General information

Plantlife is working across Merseyside delivering the We're in the Wild project, funded through the Big Lottery's Reaching Communities programme. The overall aim of the project is to increase opportunities for children and young people) to access, explore, enjoy, learn and participate in local natural spaces thereby increasing health and well being, contributing to skill and social development and providing opportunities to make positive contributions to the wider community.

Our half day or twilight sessions are designed to focus on key areas of the new curriculum and to not only provide participants with activities but stimulate ideas enabling participants to reflect on their own practice and how they could use outdoor spaces more to deliver learning. All workshops are **FREE**.

Workshop title	Description	Curriculum Links	Venue, dates and times
Twilight sessions and half day sessions			
Maths outside	<p>In this interactive session you will have the opportunity to explore how you can use your local green space or park for maths.</p> <p>Activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My body - a measuring machine. Use paces to count in units on metres and estimate distances along the ground. Count in units of 5 and 50 using hands and arm spans and discover how old your local trees are. Explore circumference and diameters of tree trunks and compare different methods for looking at the heights of a tree. • Setting up a maths trail- Putting into action the use of compasses to navigate using bearings and pacing, discovering tasks on the journey. • Collecting and displaying data outside - use objects to represent numbers. Collecting data and representing it with outdoor bar charts, line graphs. Working out scales. • Shapes and sorting - Looking at shapes in nature. Thinking about the size of natural objects and sequencing them - lightest to heaviest; smallest to biggest. Using language such as half. • Fractal patterns- Studying the natural reoccurring patterns in nature. 	<p>Number place and value</p> <p>Measurement including sequencing events in chronological order with appropriate vocabulary.</p> <p>Geometry (Position and Direction) including describing position direction and movement, ordering and arranging objects, parts of a circle and grids and grid references.</p> <p>Statistics particularly pictograms, tally charts, bar charts, continuous data and interpretation of data.</p> <p>This session would suit numeracy coordinators, outside learning coordinators or any teacher wishing to make more of the outdoor classroom.</p>	<p>National Wildflower Centre, Court hey park, Knowsley, Liverpool. L16 3NA.</p> <p>Thursday 25th September 2014 9:30am-12noon</p>

<p>Inspiring spaces</p>	<p>This workshop focuses on how your local green space can be used to deliver literacy outside. Emphasis is placed in extending vocabulary; describing things clearly; writing for a purpose; planning writing and writing in the first person.</p> <p>Activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group poetry - Use the lines on the palm of your hand as a map to find your special place or make a natural world bauble. What can you see, smell, feel and hear in your special place? Collect words for the word bank and share your words with others. Make a folding poem in a group and review each group's work. • Outside spaces for commands and instructions- Your mission should you choose to accept it is to move your partner from A-B past a series of natural obstacles and challenges. Who can complete the challenge first and find the treasure? • My small world - Make a mini-home for a magical creature and use a secret looking glass to discover more about your creature and the world they inhabit. How do they move about? Who are their friends and why? Who are their enemies? How do they furnish their home with the natural world around them? What kinds of adventures do they have? • Reflective writing - Have you ever wondered what a tree has seen? What has happened in a tree's lifetime? What did the tree think about that? 	<p>Spoken Language Particularly listening and responding, describing and explaining, narratives and collaborative conversations.</p> <p>Writing Composition Particularly planning for writing, drafting, evaluating and editing and performing.</p>	<p>Wednesday 1st October 2014 9:30am-12noon</p>
<p>Science on your doorstep</p>	<p>This interactive session provides you with an opportunity to explore how the outdoor classroom can be used for scientific investigations.</p> <p>Activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devising keys - Using micro hunts and exploring texture, shape and size create your own key and let others test it • Surveys, pollinators and displaying information • Designing field investigations- comparing places using the wheel of investigation. 	<p>Living things and their habitats, plants, seasonal changes and animals.</p>	<p>Tuesday 28th October 1-3:30 pm</p>

<p>Demonstrating life processes through interactive games</p>	<p>'I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand' <i>Confucius(551BC-479BC)</i> Focussing on active learning through the use of interactive games</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bee Waggle Dance Orienteering- Using body language to communicate navigation and discover facts. • Predator and Prey- Mimicking predator actions to attack prey and discovering adaptations for specialist features. • Bat and Moth- Focussing on practicing echolocation in groups. • Water Cycle- Using repetitive learning to teach the processes of the cycle through active methods. • Pollination Game- Demonstrating the two mechanisms of pollination and comparing their success. • Habitat Game- Taking into account diminishing habitats and the importance of their conservation. 	<p>Rivers, Living things and their habitats, plant lifecycles</p>	<p>Friday 7th November 1-3:30pm</p>
<p>Helping children and young people with special educational needs discover the outdoors</p>	<p>Focussing on children and young people's senses, to improve their wellbeing while visiting their local park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discovering the natural environment- Using 'meet a tree' and colour palettes to appreciate textures and colours. • Natural shopping list- searching for particular plants and discovering shape. • Sound sticks- creating a sensory stick to depict the sounds they hear • Pictorial treasure hunt- navigating the way using a pictorial orienteering course. • Tracks and trails- using natural materials to create tracks for others to follow 	<p>Habitats/ all living things, Outdoor and adventurous activities Particularly focussed for SEN coordinators</p>	<p>Monday 24th November 9:30am-12noon</p>

Whole Day Session

Making the most of the nature on your doorstep

The aim of this whole day workshop is to provide participants with a range of tools and activities that they can use to develop subject based and cross curricular learning in their own setting. In the morning participants will take part in a series of activities and an emphasis will be placed on activity extension and the importance of questions in the outdoor setting. This will be followed by sessions that focus on key aspects of the science curriculum and group work to look at how books can be used as a starter activity to introduce other learning. Barriers to learning in natural environments will also be discussed and participants will be introduced to a number of ideas that support group learning and orientation within the outdoor classroom.

Habitats/all living things, describing words and keys

**Friday 5th
December
10am-3pm**

**Monday 6th April
10am-3pm**