



The Essentials:

There are only 3 rules for everyone at Treecreepers that cover all the do's, don'ts and behaviours: Look after yourself, Look after each other and Look after the environment.

- Accompanying adults are expected to support, encourage and become involved with the children on their learning journeys and have fun themselves!
- Sessions will be held in all weather conditions (except extremely high winds) so everyone needs to be dressed well or we cannot go ahead.
- Communication is essential! We will let you know all relevant information about activities, safety and other matters when it is needed. Please let US know if you have any concerns, queries, observations and feedback etc.
- You are a role model and children WILL copy you in every aspect of their learning. Please bear in mind those eyes and ears that are following you and learning from watching!
- All Treecreepers staff love cake!!

Welcome to the woods :)

(IMPORTANT!) INFORMATION FOR ALL ADULTS ASSISTING AT TREECREEPERS

At Treecreepers Forest school we connect children with the natural world. With regular exposure to and interaction with the stimulating woodland environment opportunities are created to learn about and manage risk, increase confidence, participate in challenging and motivating games and activities, develop social, emotional and physical skills and have positive experiences.

Sessions may involve the children climbing, running, shouting, testing physical and emotional boundaries and becoming muddy and dirty (and sometimes wet). Do not be alarmed by this! This is all part of Treecreepers' hands-on learning process. Remember clothes and children are 100% washable. If you do notice anyone is cold, frustrated, hungry or thirsty or please act quickly to either assist them or let us know.

At first it's normal for some young children to feel a bit frightened or overwhelmed in the woods. They may look to you for reassurance. Some other children may explode and want to run and shout and feel. Run with them, laugh with them, be in the moment with them. Older Children will get to use tools more regularly and therefore it is even more important that assisting adults model good behaviour when assisting and/or using tools themselves. If you are unsure, ask us, we probably didn't explain things perfectly and if you don't understand it's likely not all the children do either.

When they get comfortable the children will start to interact fully with the woods and get into a routine. Some will love the textures of mud and water and trees. Others will hold back watching, worried about getting dirty or germs. Encourage both! Remember even if you feel squeamish it's important not to show it too much... Getting a child to help you pick up a spider because you are worried is great but screaming and running away not so! Let us know if anything really bothers you and we can help.

The children you work with have lots to teach you in the woods you just need to look. Follow their lead when possible and enjoy experiencing new things alongside them. You may notice that some children act differently to in the classroom, often in very positive ways. They may notice that you act differently too! Some will look to you for their cues, for reassurance, praise and boundaries. Please respond!

And finally...please try to be flexible. Although we pre-plan sessions we are always ready to engage in child led activity or interest when appropriate. If children are taking the initiative they are fully engaged and are learning how to concentrate, work together, deal with frustrations and achieve!!