



BCI FOREST SCHOOL SKILLS PROGRESSION.



At Cortonwood we offer a wealth of Forest School experiences where children can explore, investigate, take risks, develop resilience and learn collaboratively, with nature at the heart of all they do. Adults act as facilitators to child led learning and are skilled in letting the children control the direction of the experience whilst being on hand to support, guide and teach skills.

SKILL	EYES	BY THE END OF F2 WE WANT THE MAJORITY OF CHILDREN TO BE ABLE TO...	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	BY THE END OF YR2 WE WANT THE MAJORITY OF CHILDREN TO BE ABLE TO...
PLAY/EXPLORING	<p>Introduction to rules and boundaries.</p> <p>Promotion of free exploration.</p> <p>Promotion of independent learning opportunities/skills</p> <p>Travel safely over the terrain.</p> <p>Carry sticks safely.</p> <p>Plant bulbs and watch them grow</p> <p>Exploring seasonal change.</p> <p>Hunt for insects.</p>	<p>Follow rules and boundaries and begin to manage their own risks to stay safe in Forest School</p> <p>Observe change over time.</p> <p>Identify some insects.</p>	<p>Re-enforce rules and boundaries.</p> <p>Work in a team to co-operate and communicate clearly.</p> <p>Discover what is in the pond.</p> <p>Get soaking wet in the rain</p> <p>Roll down a hill.</p> <p>Make a daisy chain.</p>	<p>Re-enforce rules and boundaries.</p> <p>Move logs safely.</p> <p>Build a bridge</p> <p>Become a nature detective</p> <p>Make something out of wood.</p> <p>Bird watching</p>	<p>Identify some birds and insects.</p> <p>Identify common flowers and trees found in our Forest School.</p> <p>Build a bridge selecting their own resources.</p> <p>Manage their own risks to stay safe in Forest School</p>
SHELTER BUILDING	<p>Introduction to Shelter Building. Use a variety of</p>	<p>Select natural items to build dens with.</p>	<p>Independent shelter building with resources such as tarps and pegs</p>	<p>Independent Tripod Structures for dens.</p>	<p>Build a lean to shelter and talk about how they have made it secure.</p>

	<p>materials and pegs. Picture prompts to support ideas.</p> <p>Mini den building for animals</p>	<p>Keep trying or try a different resource to build with successfully.</p> <p>Be able to suggest why an animal would need shelter.</p>	<p>with the introduction of paracord for tying.</p> <p>Independent mini den building for animals – begin to introduce tripod structure.</p>	<p>Introduction of lean to shelters.</p> <p>Begin to use paracord to secure tarpaulins when building structures.</p> <p>Question how they could improve their structures.</p>	<p>Talk about and evaluate their structure, making changes where they wish to adapt their design.</p>
TOOLS	<p>Introduction to tools:</p> <p>Peelers Hammers Mallets Trowels Forks</p>	<p>Use a tools safely with supervision.</p>	<p>Continuation of the use of basic tools (cutting of string)</p> <p>Bow saw to cut discs and peelers for whittling (1:1)</p>	<p>Continuation of the use of basic tools, larger ropes and independent cutting of string.</p> <p>Use of a bow saw to cut discs 1:1 and peelers for whittling with more independence.</p>	<p>Use tools safety with increasing independence.</p> <p>Whittle a stick using a peeler for a purpose.</p>
KNOTS	<p>Introduction to basic Knots – show tying</p>	<p>Know what a knot is and why/when we might need to use them in Forest School.</p>	<p>Independent knot tying</p>	<p>More use of knots for attaching to structures and trees.</p> <p>Example – Cow hitch</p> <p>Introduce lashing and frapping techniques to make frames.</p>	<p>Know different ways to tie knots and attempt them with some independence.</p> <p>Try a different knot if one is not successful.</p>
USING FIRE FOR COOKING	<p>Observe and talk about fire lighting procedures, begin to contribute by selecting fuel.</p> <p>Toasting marshmallows with full support.</p> <p>Observe popcorn popping.</p> <p>Observe using the Ghilli Kettle to boil water for hot chocolate.</p>	<p>Know and practise the fire pit safety rules. Know how to approach a fire safely.</p> <p>Know that they need to wait before you eat something that has been cooked on the fire to allow it to cool.</p>	<p>Safety procedures. Toasting marshmallows with less support.</p> <p>Support with cooking popcorn.</p> <p>Observe using the Ghilli Kettle to boil water for hot chocolate.</p> <p>Contributing to fire lighting by gathering fuel.</p>	<p>Safety Procedures Independent Toasting marshmallows and bread.</p> <p>Support with cooking popcorn.</p> <p>Help to light the Ghilli Kettle to boil water for hot chocolate.</p> <p>Contributing to fire lighting by gathering fuel.</p>	<p>Know and practise the fire pit safety rules. Know how to approach a fire safely.</p> <p>Know how to light and fuel a fire.</p> <p>Independently toast a marshmallow.</p>

				Experience using fire strikers to spark a flame. Light a piece of cotton wool (cotton wool Vaseline tinder)	
MAKE A BIRD FEEDER	Make a bird feeder using mostly natural items/recycling (Pine cones, coconut shells, apples, pipe cleaners, wire thread, yoghurt pots)	Select suitable resources and use tools. know where to best place a bird feeder. know what foods some birds eat.	Make a bird feeder using recycling that needs to be adapted (cut, string attached etc). E.g. a milk bottle, egg boxes, fruit juice cartons.	Design and make a bird feeder using woodwork skills.	Select suitable resources and tools. Adapt designs.
GROWING PLANTS	Plant bulbs and seeds and watch them grow	Be able to dig a hole using a trowel. Be able to put a bulb the correct way up in the ground and cover it carefully. Know that most seeds need warmth and water to germinate.	Plant vegetable seeds and care for them whilst growing.	Plant bedding plants, sow summer flowering seeds and care for them.	Be able to dig a larger hole using a trowel or spade. Water plants appropriately taking care not to overwater them. Prepare soil for planting seeds. E.g. Use of a rake or spade to level and thin out soil.

