

Teaching Primary Science Outdoors

How is it going?

HELENRSRING NOV 24, 2020 12:55PM

What's going well?

teachers are wanting to go out more

We were lucky enough to be involved in this project so we have worked hard to develop our outdoor science. The main point is that the children are learning more and remembering more. The children are more engaged with science generally as an area of learning.

Science learning is taken outside, where possible. Both the children and the teachers enjoy going outside!

Staff are keen to engage in outdoor learning

Children enjoying being outdoors and keener to be outdoors than previously.

small activities outside break the lesson up and renew motivation

We are using a range of spaces. Previously I viewed science outside as only the playground or forest.

Lots of outdoor space

children's engagement

Plenty of interest amongst staff

We have our outdoor lessons at least two hours a day

Covid has presented lots of heightened awareness and opportunities for all things outdoor learning and play

Great outdoor spaces

Children enjoy being outside. It's memorable to them.

Children are getting the chance to spend time exploring outdoors. Especially those who don't get this opportunity outside of school.

amazing outdoor areas available

recently revamped forest schools area. A lot of investment being made

Teacher finally manage to explain the parents why is it good for the kids to be outside, and learn outside. We were able to stretch our own competencies in order to improve this sort of learning.

People's desire to go outside is apparent and they know the positive impact it has on the children's learning and enthusiasm

Some effort from teachers

In some year groups teachers plan scavenger hunts or bug hunts outdoors linked to science objectives

nature all around kindergarten

What challenges do you face?

teachers are reluctant

Appropriate space or belief from staff that space is not adequate for use.

Current restrictions around Covid and crossing bubbles reducing available spaces at times. Suitable staffing to support can be an issue.

Converting current scheme to be accessible outdoors (science Bug)

Busy timetables

organising who can use the space and when in small schools.

Teachers feel it is a challenge and lose control of the behaviour outside

Confidence of teachers

time in the timetable

preventing schools reverting back to what they did before!

time

Knowing where to start

Creating the time to do it justice

getting ALL staff to see the value of it

convincing teachers to make use of spaces

time time time!

Teachers feeling its not rigourous enough

Time!

SEND children who struggle with change to the learning environment.

Confidence of staff and know how

Covid restrictions and weather!

Getting materials we need. finding staff(technical staff, handy man) to help us create what we had planned to do. Mostly enviornmental challenges, cuz the teachers are on board.

The weather is probably the biggest challenge!

Making sure that teachers ensure that it's purposeful

Having a good quality space.

collaboration among teachers to carry out the lesson plans.

sufficient staffing for either splitting classes or just the increased supervision needed in some areas

Converting current scheme (Science Bug) to out door learning format

Staffing

Staff's willingness to 'get stuck in' also their understanding of how they can implement a busy knowledge-based curriculu outside.

wildlife zone getting too wild! (overgrown)

Weather/clothing!

we do not have enough money resources

What questions do you have?

when is the best time to find snails and slugs?

what free resources are available for schools with no science school budget?

How to teach more abstract areas of science outdoors eg evolution or earth and space

How do people create space in the timetable?

How much time do other people spend teaching Science outdoors?

What are the best/easiest things a school can invest in to make outdoor learning the best?

(Quick wins?)

What are people's ideas on set up for overcoming weather challenges? e.g. wellies, overalls, waterproofs etc

What resources are essential in the outdoor learning space?

how to balance physical exploring/den building with keeping less disturbed spaces for bug hunts?

can we teach electricity outdoors?
