

**PROGRESSION OF SKILLS – Forest Schools**

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| Skills | Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |
| Exploration and biodiversity activities will take part in all Forest School experiences, these may include treasure hunts, seasonal experiences, tree climbing, scavenger hunts, inventing games, bug hunting, bird watching and identifying trees and plants from leaves, buds, etc.Experiences will also include making habitats for different animals, including hedgehogs, birds nests, bug hotels, as well as bird feeders. |
| Using toolsThe skill of using loppers is taught when children show an interest in safety and the environment, this could be in all year groups. | Using a hand drill | Digging with spades and trowels. | Use a bow saw to make a tree cookie | Use a knife to whittle | Use a bow saw to chop woodUse a bill hook and a mallet to make the wood smaller to create kindling for the fire | Use a bow saw, bill hook and knife to create a musical instrument | Use a knife to create a useable object out of wood. |
| Natural art and craft | Mud paintingMud models and sculpturesWild art with sticks, leave, logs, etc. | Make a frame using logs.Collaborate to make art work. | Create musical mobiles and wind chimes using natural materials (not including flowers)Decorate tree cookies | Use sticks to weave | Make paint using berries and leavesMake own paintbrushes using sticks, leaves, feathers, etc. evaluate which works better and why | Build a raft with sticksMake a dream catcher using natural materials | Journey sticks for transitional purposesSquare lashings to join materials |
| Den and shelter building | Build a simple den with a tarpaulin with adult supportBuild a small den for animals | Build a den using using tarpaulin with greater independence, have support to select where to place the den and furnish. | Apply knots learnt to build a shelter | Make a den with natural materials, eg, logs and sticks.Catch a flag | Make a den with complete independence in groups. Ensure the den is waterproof. | Compare and evaluate shelters in relation to sturdiness and durability. | Make a den or shelter with complete independence, plan, do and review their shelters, evaluating as a group. |
| Tying knots | Introduction to knots, timber hitch to support den building | Revisit timber hitch knotsReef knot | Revisit previous knotsSlip knot | Revisit previous knotsClove hitch | To revisit knots learnt and decide upon appropriate knot for the purpose | To revisit knots learnt and decide upon appropriate knot for the purpose | Snake lashingSelect the correct knot for the purpose needed |
| Using fire and cookingFire safety will be taught throughout all experiences. Items for cooking can change dependant on children’s interests and forest school leader discretion, fruit, etc. | Toast marshmallows and make smores on a 1.1 ratio | Toast marshmallows and make smores on a 1.2 ratio | Toast marshmallows and make smores on a 1.3 ratioChildren to add own marshmallows into sticks | Bake a cake in an orange. 1.3 ratioChildren to make sparks with flint and steel | Cook toast with a 1.4 ratioChildren to make sparks with flint and steel  | Pitta pizzaLight own fire on cotton wool, 1.4Count strikes | Plan own snack to cook on the fire Light their own fires with cotton wool |

This skills grid will be used by Forest school leaders to observe children to ensure they select the appropriate skills to teach. These may not necessarily be pitched within their academic year group due to gaps in knowledge and skills.