

Purpose Statement

Open Awards Level 1 Award in Introduction to Forest School Principles

The primary purpose of these qualifications is to develop knowledge and/or skills in the subject area of Forest Schools. This level 1 qualification will provide you with an introduction to the Forest School ethos and learning in the outdoors. This qualification is part of a suite that the knowledge, understanding and skills needed for learners to take part in Forest School activities. They enable learners to experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of their learning and personal development, and have been designed in accordance with the guidance outlined in the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto 2006.

Who is it for?

This qualification is designed to meet the needs of those with an interest in working in the outdoors, including:

- School and College Students
- Young People
- Teachers and Support Workers
- Helpers at Forest Schools

What does this qualification cover?

To achieve the Award, you will need to complete 3 credits and commit to 30 hours of learning.

You will be required to complete 3 mandatory credits in Introduction to Forest School Principles.

This will cover the following learning outcomes:

- Be able to participate in a Forest School experience
- Understand methods of identification of woodland species
- Understand the impact of Forest School on the woodland environment
- Understand hazards at Forest School

What are the Entry Requirements?

This qualification is suitable for learners aged 14+. There are no specific prior achievements required. However, evidence of achievement at Entry Level 3 may be an advantage. There are no restrictions on learner entry and it may be studied alongside other vocational qualifications.

What are the Progression Opportunities?

This qualification provides a mechanism for you to recognise and develop your skills and establish personal, learning and employment goals. You may choose to progress onto a higher level qualification, including:

- Open Awards Level 2 Award in Introduction to Forest School Programme Support (RQF)

You may choose to progress onto further learning within a different but related subject area including:

- Open Awards Level 1 Award/Certificate in Conservation (RQF)
- Open Awards Level 1 Award/Certificate/Diploma in Horticulture (RQF)
- Open Awards Level 2 Certificate in Skills for Working in Land-Based Industries (RQF)
- Open Awards Level 2 Award in Youth Work (RQF)

What are the Assessment Methods?

You will be required to produce evidence within the context of a Forest School Programme.

You will be required to complete a portfolio of evidence to achieve this qualification. Types of evidence included in your portfolio could include:

- Videos/photographs
- Reflective journals
- Questions/answers
- Worksheets
- Recorded discussions with your tutor

Who supports this qualification?

This qualification was developed and is supported by training providers and Further Education Colleges, including The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside; Baskerville School; Beyond the Forest; and Silver Fox Training.