

Purpose Statement

Level 2 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 2 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 staff
- Youth workers
- Parent helpers
- Students

What does this qualification cover?

To achieve the Award, you will need to complete 6 credits and commit to 60 hours of learning.

You will be required to complete 6 mandatory credits in Skills for the Forest School Programme Assistant and Supporting Learning and Development at a Forest School Programme.

Learning outcomes include:

- Understand the role of risk assessment at Forest School
- Be able to carry out practical tasks at Forest School
- Understand how a Forest School can support an individual's learning and development
- Be able to perform the role of Assistant at a Forest School

What are the Entry Requirements?

This qualification is suitable for learners aged 16+. Please note that the Forest School Association recommends a minimum age of 18+ for employment as a Forest School Programme Assistant. There are no specific prior achievements required. However, evidence of achievement at Level 1 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 3 Certificate in Forest School Programme Leadership (RQF)

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

- Open Awards Level 2 Certificate in Skills for Working in Land-Based Industries (RQF)
- Open Awards Level 2 Award in Youth Work (RQF)
- Open Awards Level 3 Award in Education and Training (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 with 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.