

Exploring the natural world

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Meet and handle the Suntrap animals including giant African snails and fire salamanders. Enjoy a discovery walk in Epping Forest including a paddle in the stream, climbing over logs, collecting natural materials and looking for small animals under the leaves.



Suggestions for visit preparation

1. Make sure the children understand what a forest is and talk to them about what they might see in a forest.
2. Talk about what to wear for going outside, dependent on the weather.
3. Read a story about going on a trip or about a forest.

Suggestions for follow-up activities

1. Discuss aspects of the trip that children liked and disliked.
2. Make a display of the forest environment including the features children encountered and materials collected.
3. Sort and count natural materials collected in the forest.

Learning Objectives

- to have the confidence to try at least one new experience
- to be able to tell an adult something about an animal they have seen or touched using the correct vocabulary

Early learning goal links

Communication and language

Children have opportunities to experience a rich language environment to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Physical development

Provide opportunities for young children to be active and interactive and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement.

Personal, social and emotional development

Help children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others to form positive relationships and develop respect for others. To develop social skills, learn how to manage their feelings, understand appropriate behaviour in groups and to have confidence in their own abilities.

Understanding the world

Guiding children to make sense of their physical world through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about places and the environment.





EVENT SPECIFIC RISK ASSESSMENT



Visit details: Exploring the Natural World

Carried out by: Suntrap

Date: December 2018

Issue	How to manage it
Understanding/behaviour	Class teacher to advise Suntrap staff of any children who may need extra support out in the forest to help them to follow instructions. School to ensure that there is appropriate adult: children ratios as required.
Medical conditions	It is school's staff responsibility to ensure they bring and administer medication needed for any particular children. Suntrap staff to check that school staff brings medication out into the forest. All adults to be made aware of any medical conditions. Suntrap staff will carry a first aid kit.
Getting lost	Suntrap staff to instruct children to keep within sight of teacher/adult & observe boundaries as directed.
Choking/Poisoning	No eating outside unless directly instructed by Suntrap staff.
Falling branches	During extreme weather conditions Suntrap staff will make an assessment to ensure it is safe to enter the forest.
Injury from horses/dogs or bikes	Group to be instructed to stand to the side, be quiet and still when horses, dogs or bikes are near.
Accident when crossing the road	Group to be instructed on follow safe procedures for crossing roads (Suntrap Line). No one to walk across the cattle grid.
Injury through falling & throwing	Climbing of trees and throwing sticks/stones prohibited.
Injury/disease from animals	Children instructed not to put fingers in mouth during/after activities which include handling plants, soil and sticks. Hands should be washed with warm soapy water before eating lunch/snack.
Soil borne disease	Class teacher to advise Suntrap staff of any children who may need extra support out in the forest to help them to follow instructions. School to ensure that there is appropriate adult: children ratios as required.
Allergic reaction to animals	Suntrap staff to be made aware of any allergies to fur/feathers by teaching staff.