

# Linking to the Outdoors

## National Sustainable Schools Conference Workshops

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<b>Organisation/School:</b>	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
<b>Conference:</b>	Preston, 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2009
<b>Name of workshop:</b>	<b>Linking to the Outdoors with Forest School</b>
<b>Workshop description:</b>	
<p>Forest school is an inspirational approach which develops children's self esteem, confidence and interpersonal skills through hands-on learning in the outdoors. This workshop will give you a taste of some forest school activities that you can use in your own setting and also discuss the links with Sustainable Schools and Every Child Matters.</p> <p>Forest school involves regular outdoor learning sessions throughout the year. It's fun and child-led and must be delivered by a trained leader (Level 3 Forest School, Open College Network). It's integral to the curriculum and can be linked to many accredited learning schemes (such as the John Muir Award).</p>	
<b>Conference themes which the workshop covered:</b>	
Using the outdoors – linking to the curriculum and ESD and Whole school approach.	
<b>Workshop audience:</b>	
Teachers and early year practitioners and anyone with an interest in outdoor education.	
<b>Workshop format:</b>	
This session will be largely outdoors – involving taking part in some forest school activities and will also some discussion and group work on how Forest School links to Sustainable Schools and ECM.	
<b>Workshop outputs:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Children can be trusted with hands-on use of tools, take responsibility and learn from opportunities outside</li> <li>2. Whatever you can do in the classroom you can do outside</li> <li>3. Children need to be introduced to these natural environments and the uses of natural materials</li> </ol>	
<b>Related Resources:</b>	
<p>The best link for general online resources for forest school is <a href="http://www.foresteducation.org.uk">www.foresteducation.org.uk</a></p> <p>We are not able to continue discussing the workshop on line but people can sign up to a forest school mailing list for the North West by emailing Liz at <a href="mailto:ewebley@lancswt.org.uk">ewebley@lancswt.org.uk</a></p>	
<b>Related Web Resources:</b>	

Several organisations offer specialist advice and support for using the outdoors to offer sustainable development learning:

- Forest Schools: [www.foresteducation.org.uk](http://www.foresteducation.org.uk)
- Eden Project [edenproject.com/schools-and-colleges/index.php](http://edenproject.com/schools-and-colleges/index.php)

Learning Outside the Classroom: [www.lotc.org.uk/](http://www.lotc.org.uk/)