



Creating Rich Experiences and Supporting Learning Outdoors from Outdoors Thinking

An evidence-informed approach supporting young children in any EYFS setting to thrive through making the most of the potential of the outdoors. This programme has been designed by drawing on high-quality evidence and the expertise of the team at Outdoors Thinking.

Aim

Within the context of significant mental health concerns and the reported continuing negative impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic for the youngest children, this programme will help practitioners to harness the extraordinary ability of the outdoors to support children's personal, social and emotional development (PSED).

This course aims to develop rich and satisfying outdoor experiences in early childhood settings that strongly nurture children's wellbeing. Practitioners will gain the skills for making the most of these experiences to enable children's personal, social and emotional development, nurturing the foundations of self-regulation.

What will the programme involve?

We are looking for 10 settings to deliver the programme and provide feedback for future development. All enrolled settings will receive a £1,600 payment for their participation in research.

The programme is taking place from September 2024 to April 2025 and includes:

- 8 full day in-person training sessions (units), one month apart, involving experiential sessions outdoors, small and whole group discussions and analysis of video clips.
- A guided small-scale action research cycle is used to implement the new provision/ practice back in your own setting.
- Completion of assignments leading to accreditation with AIM Qualifications (10 credits at level 3).
- During the programme you will be required to take part in a small number of feedback activities (e.g. surveys and group discussions) to help us understand your experiences of implementing the programme.
 - A full privacy notice and other relevant data protection information will be made available for you to review prior to you signing a memorandum of understanding.

How will participants be supported to deliver the programme?

- A 2-hour online introductory session for participants will introduce course processes and commitments. We encourage senior leaders to also attend this session in order to best support their setting's involvement in the programme.
- 8 full day in-person training sessions, one month apart, involving experiential sessions outdoors, small and whole group discussions and analysis of video clips.



- Detailed unit guides will provide support throughout the training and whilst putting the day into practice.
- Guided reading, video material and interviews with experts allow you to extend your thinking.
- Video clips of children's outdoor play, with guided observation for PSED and self-regulation, will enable you to see more of the detail in children's play.
- Further information sheets on PSED and self-regulation outdoors will help you dig more deeply into this vital area.
- Our digital proformas will help you complete the accredited assignments.
- Formative feedback on assignments is provided as you progress through the programme.
- Admin support is always on-hand.

What do we hope the programme will offer?

Through participating in this programme, many settings have found that:

- Practitioners feel more comfortable and confident in working outdoors with young children. They become confident and competent both in creating rich experiences and in recognising and supporting children's PSED and self-regulation through their play outdoors.
- Children approach the new outdoor opportunities with curiosity, drive and enthusiasm, experiencing more positive interactions with adults, other children and the materials in their environment. They are better supported in their outdoor environment, frequently demonstrating vitality, initiative and self-management.

Key dates

Online information sessions – Tuesday 3rd June from 4-4.45 or Tuesday 4th June from 7-7.45pm

All training days run on Saturdays from 9:30am to 3:30pm at St Edmund's Nursery School and Children's Centre, Bradford:

Creating Rich Experiences (all dates 2024) – 21st Sept, 12th Oct, 9th Nov, 7th Dec

Supporting Learning Outdoors (all dates 2025) – 11th Jan, 8th Feb, 8th March, 29th March

Assignments for AIM accreditation will be due within 6 weeks of the end of the module.

Expressions of Interest

To express your interest in this programme, please complete this online form by 14th June 2024

<https://forms.office.com/e/q8F7kXGW9H>