

# Forest School For All



Forest Creators  
12-Week Summer Curriculum





# Introduction



## A note about the Forest Creators Curriculum

The Forest Creators Curriculum is specifically designed so children can creatively engage with the natural world around them. Spread across 12 weeks, but easily adaptable to the timeframe of your interest, each week of the curriculum focuses on introducing a different set of natural and human-made materials to the children. Along with these supplies, you will find each week also includes a prompt and a list of discussion questions. These can be used to help guide your child's experience, but you may find your child takes the prompt and materials and goes in a completely different direction. That creativity is welcome and encouraged.

In line with the mission of Forest School For All, this curriculum is open-ended and focuses on the process more than the product. Meaning, there will be an opportunity for children to express themselves and to explore their ideas. They can do this with the supplies provided by you and by the forest itself, while using the prompts you lay out as a springboard to wherever their creativity takes them.

Each session will begin in the forest by introducing the week's prompt. This gets the children to begin thinking about creations connected to the natural world. Following this, there is an opportunity to explore the forest and collect any natural materials the children wish to incorporate into their creations. This may be playful and exploratory, depending on the child and their level of comfortability in the forest. At this point, you will come back together to combine any natural materials with the human-made materials you've laid out. This is often where the creation process begins. You can incorporate the discussion questions throughout or at the end of the session.

The flow of each week may vary. Often, the sessions bounce between free play and creations in the forest. And sometimes they are one in the same. Respect for a child's interests and ability to guide themselves through their experiences is very important. It is magical when children can learn and grow through open-ended free play and self-direction. Usually, the materials and the prompts provided find their way into a child's play in ways we least expect it. We are endlessly reminded that children open our minds to a new way of thinking and seeing the world. As such, we like to say this program is parent-facilitated, but child-led. With the Forest Creators Curriculum, children are given the opportunity to take the lead in their creativity, their engagement with nature and their play.



## Activity Prompt, Nature Sculptures

This activity invites children to be creative in how they use the materials around them - both from nature and from the leader. This theme continues throughout the curriculum.

- Encourage the children to look around for some natural treasures.
- When they have gathered them, give them their plate with their chunk of clay and twine.
- Invite them to use the supplies however they feel inspired.

## Supplies Needed

- Clay
- Twine
- Paper plate
- Scissors

## Closing Questions

- How does the clay feel?
- How do your objects feel?
- Which object is your favorite?
- What do you like about it?
- How many (sticks, rocks, pine needles, etc) are you using?
- Do you have any objects that bend?
- Do you have any fragile items?
- Does your sculpture smell?