

# Forest School For All



Forest Creators  
12-Week Winter Curriculum





# Introduction



## A note about the Forest Creators Curriculum

The Forest Creators Curriculum is specifically designed so young 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 young 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 helps 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, in their engagement with nature and in their play.



# Leave No Trace



## **Help us care for our forests with these simple ideas:**

### **Carry in / carry out**

Everything we bring into the forest, we bring back out with us.  
This includes food, crafts and garbage.

### **Leave only footprints**

Try not to leave a trace of our time in the forest.  
Especially when crafting protect paint, glue and small pieces from spilling over.

### **Take mostly memories**

Many of our prompts incorporate natural materials.  
We invite you to consider the ecosystem as you choose which to use and how so we can limit impact.  
Can you use and return items within the forest?  
If you plan to take items home, we invite you to have an intention for how it will be used or returned.

**Thank you!**



## Activity Prompt, Squirrel Den

- Give each child a squirrel.
- Encourage the children to find materials to build a den for their squirrels.
- Following discussion, return materials to the forest.

## Supplies Needed

- Squirrel for each child

## Discussion Questions

- What do you think is your squirrel's favorite part of their den?
- When does your squirrel like to go to their den?
- What do you think the squirrel brings to their den?
- Each week, a hibernating squirrel will wake up for 12 to 20 hours - what do you think they do during the hours they are awake?