

Forest School For All



Forest Creators 12 Week Spring Curriculum



nature -inspired art activities designed for ages 2-6, adaptable for children big and small





Hello, forest friends!



Welcome to our Forest Creators Spring Curriculum, specifically geared for early childhood. We're thrilled you'll be incorporating this experience as part of your spring days. This program is designed to turn the natural world into a makerspace, giving young children access to both natural and human-made materials, as they explore their creativity and learn more about the great outdoors.

In this curriculum packet you'll receive an introduction, a 12-week overview, guidance for each week's programming and a full list of supplies, complete with links for online purchasing.

You'll be in good company as you move through the curriculum. Families and groups of families will be using the same curriculum to create this spring season, same as you. We invite you, as we invite all of our families, to share your journey with us. We'd love to hear about the creativity and the exploration that comes out of your spring experiences. You can share your stories, photographs, quotes, questions, and feedback with us via email (info@forestschoolorall.com) or with the hashtag #ForestCreators on any social media platform.

We welcome you to an exciting spring in nature ahead.
Happy Creations!

Your Forest School For All Team



Please Note

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Thank you!



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, Nature Mobile

- Invite children to forage for a long stick, as well as natural treasures to hang from the stick.
- Spread out the pieces of yarn and encourage the children to find a way of attaching one end of the yarn to their treasures - help as needed.
- Attach the other end of the yarn to the long stick.
- To hang, tie a piece of yarn on either end of the long stick.
- Save any remaining materials for the last week.

Supplies Needed

- Yarn

Discussion Questions

- What is your plan?
- What are your favorite materials to use?
- What do you think the animals would think if they saw this?



Full List of Supplies*



Bucket	Bird
Twine	Popsicle Sticks
Scissors	Yarn
Paint	Paint Brushes
Drop Cloth	Masking Tape
Paper Plates	Crayons
Glue	Feathers
Wooden Spoon	Paper (Card Stock)

*Note: You can find these items linked to Forest School For All's Amazon Affiliate Account on the webpage: <http://forestschoolorall.com/curriculum/>. By purchasing items via these links, you further support FSFA and our mission of helping families enjoy the great outdoors. Thanks!

Thank you, Forest Creators!

We hope you enjoy your spring creating in the forest. Here's where you can connect with us and the FSFA community every season:

website www.forestschoolforall.com

email info@forestschoolforall.com

facebook www.facebook.com/forestschool4all

twitter www.twitter.com/findforestplay

instagram www.instagram.com/findforestplay



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