



Learning through Nature

Learning through Nature is the name we have given to an exciting project which gets children physically active and extends our use of the natural environment in enhancing children's learning.

At Norcot we are always reviewing what we do, which includes looking for a wider range of approaches to support and engage children in learning.

In October 2006 a team of 3 staff had the opportunity to visit Norway and were impressed by the how the greater use of the outdoors extended children's perseverance, social skills, talk and problem solving. Since then further staff have trained in Norway.

Headlines in the UK have focused on the fact that children are generally not so active which has health implications and also focused on attainments in literacy skills. Taking children out to explore local parks, woods and open spaces provides opportunities to be physically active as well as providing experiences to talk about and so improve speaking and listening skills essential for literacy development. Learning through Nature has been running at Norcot for many years now and has been extremely successful and popular with children, families and staff.

It is hoped that all children aged from 3 months up to five years from all buildings will take part and a slip is attached for you to give your permission.

It will depend on the number of children participating but it is envisaged about once every two weeks and will happen within your child's normal nursery session.

The children will go in groups of about twelve (12) accompanied by at least three (3) adults. If your child is in Waterside, groups will adhere to our usual staffing ratios for external visits. We will need the support of parents to maintain these ratios; if you feel that you would like to be involved please note this on the attached slip.

The Centre will provide participating children with a small rucksack and sitting mat; we will also provide waterproof clothing for those wet days. We ask that you provide your child with a sunhat / warm hat & gloves depending on weather and that they also wear sensible and secure footwear e.g. trainers / shoes for dry weather (not open sandals/flip flops etc.) or wellies for wet weather.

Any questions please email admin@norcot.reading.sch.uk