



Practitioner
guide to
home
learning

Outdoor play gets children active and lets their imaginations run wild. It helps them develop both mentally and emotionally, stay healthy, and have fun.



Visit our website, or join us on Facebook, for free outdoor play resources, ideas and inspiration.

www.virtualnatureschool.org
Facebook.com/vnatureschool



VIRTUAL
NATURE
SCHOOL

Supporting outdoor play and learning at home in the early years.

Free resources to support home learning

OUTDOOR PLAY IDEAS VIDEOS

We have lots of videos to start home learning off each day. Families can simply watch one of the short clips, listen carefully to the learning focus or investigation topic, then get started. Many activities have elements which can be done outside or inside - useful for those days where you can't go out.

[Find the Virtual Nature School on YouTube](#)

WINTERTIME NATURE PLAY DIARY

Our nature diary supports parents to talk about, and celebrate, learning with their child. The diary be used to capture the day's learning, supporting the development of literacy skills.

[Download the nature diary at: www.virtualnatureschool.org](#)

PARENT PODCASTS FOR HOME LEARNING

Parents and practitioners can tune into our podcast series to find out more ways to enjoy outdoor play and learning at home. Share with parents for tips, motivation and ideas!

[Listen at: www.virtualnatureschool.org](#)



More resources...

NEWSLETTERS

Our newsletter is designed for practitioners and parents to engage children in conversations about nature based inquiries. Each edition answers a question that has been posted by a parent or carer; our first newsletter is all about keeping warm. Share these with parents as part of your home learning package.

[Sign up for our newsletter at: www.virtualnatureschool.org](#)

Just for practitioners

PEDGAGOGY PODCAST

Listen back to Dr Claire Warden's weekly outdoor pedagogy discussions with a small group of ELC practitioners each week.

[Listen at: www.virtualnatureschool.org](#)

Outdoor Play and Learning

We know that young children learn best through play. In ELC the outdoors provides a rich environment for learning, full of natural wonders ready to peak children's curiosity.

When parents support learning at home, they can feel a pressure to carry out typical "learning activities" with their children. Things that they themselves remember from school; writing, reading, counting etc.

This means that a move to play based learning can feel like a big step.

The Virtual Nature School can be a great stepping stone in this journey. Providing support and structure for parents around child led outdoor play experiences.

Our videos will show how the outdoors can be used to explore all parts of the curriculum; no fancy resources needed!

