

Virtual Nature School

Hazeldene Family Centre

Winter Cohort April 2021

Learning and Growing Together



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Why Virtual Nature School

Scottish Virtual Nature School is an innovative response to challenges caused by the pandemic. The project has 2 unique elements:

1. To equip **early years practitioners** with skills to work outdoors with young children through inquiry-based learning.
2. To provide **children** with fun, engaging daily provocations and virtual interaction with their peers while at home.

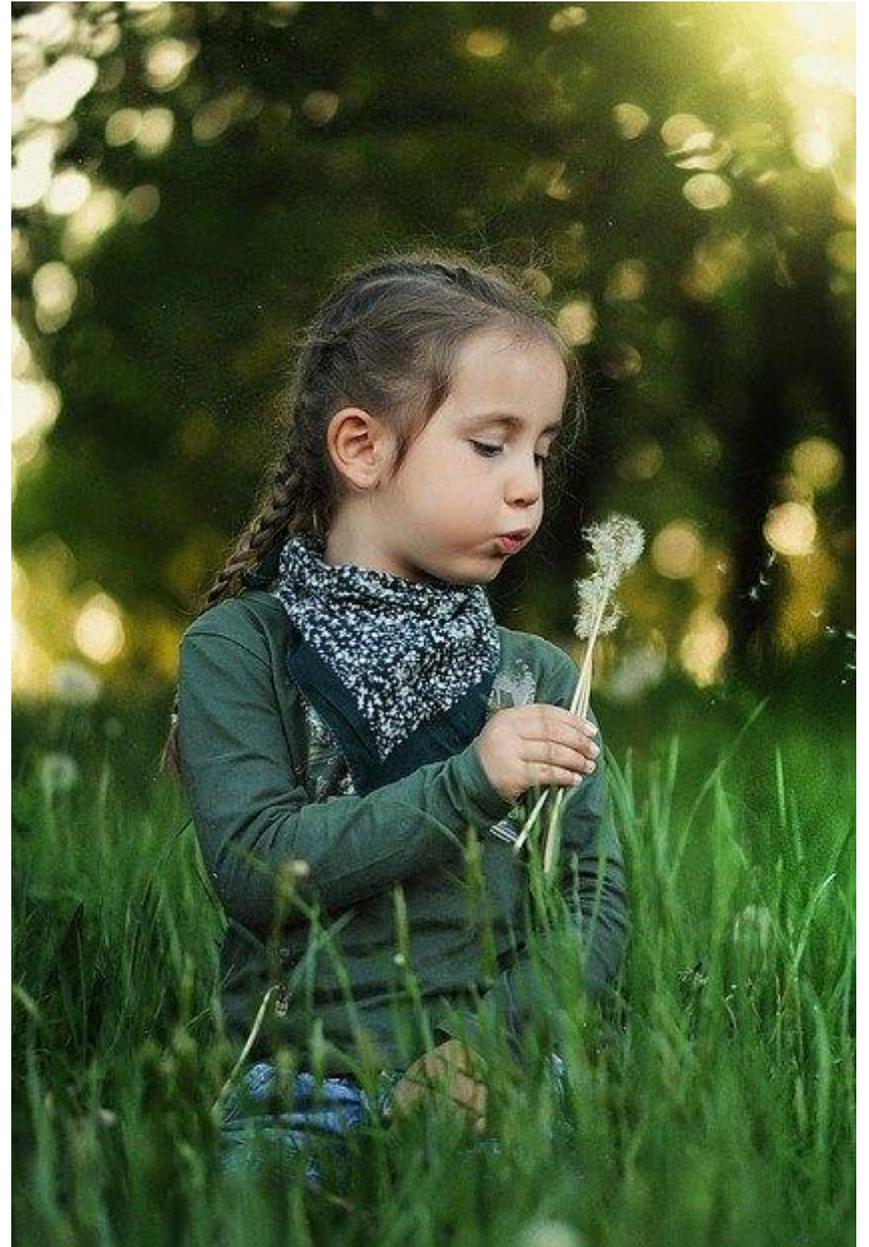
Virtual Nature School promotes the flourishing of children's learning from, with, through and in **nature**. It provides both practitioners and families with the learning resources they need to confidently explore **nature** with children



Child Centred



Child Led



Inquiry Based Learning



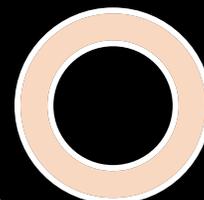
WHAT IS INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING

Inquiry-based learning is a self-directed learning approach that places each individual child's questions, ideas and interests at the centre of their education

Questions lie at the root
of all knowledge

An Inquiry led approach
leads to deep and wide
learning as children
explore, experience and
discuss.





BENEFITS OF INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING

Children are Empowered
Children are competent learners when curiosity is triggered. When learning is structured around areas of their own interests, children proactively seek knowledge without boundaries.

The result for each child is the sense of confidence that comes from feeling responsible for and capable of managing their learning experience. This makes education more meaningful for the child, and also keeps them more deeply immersed in it.





Skills Develop In All Areas



Inquiry-based learning builds important skills that have lifelong benefits for the learner, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

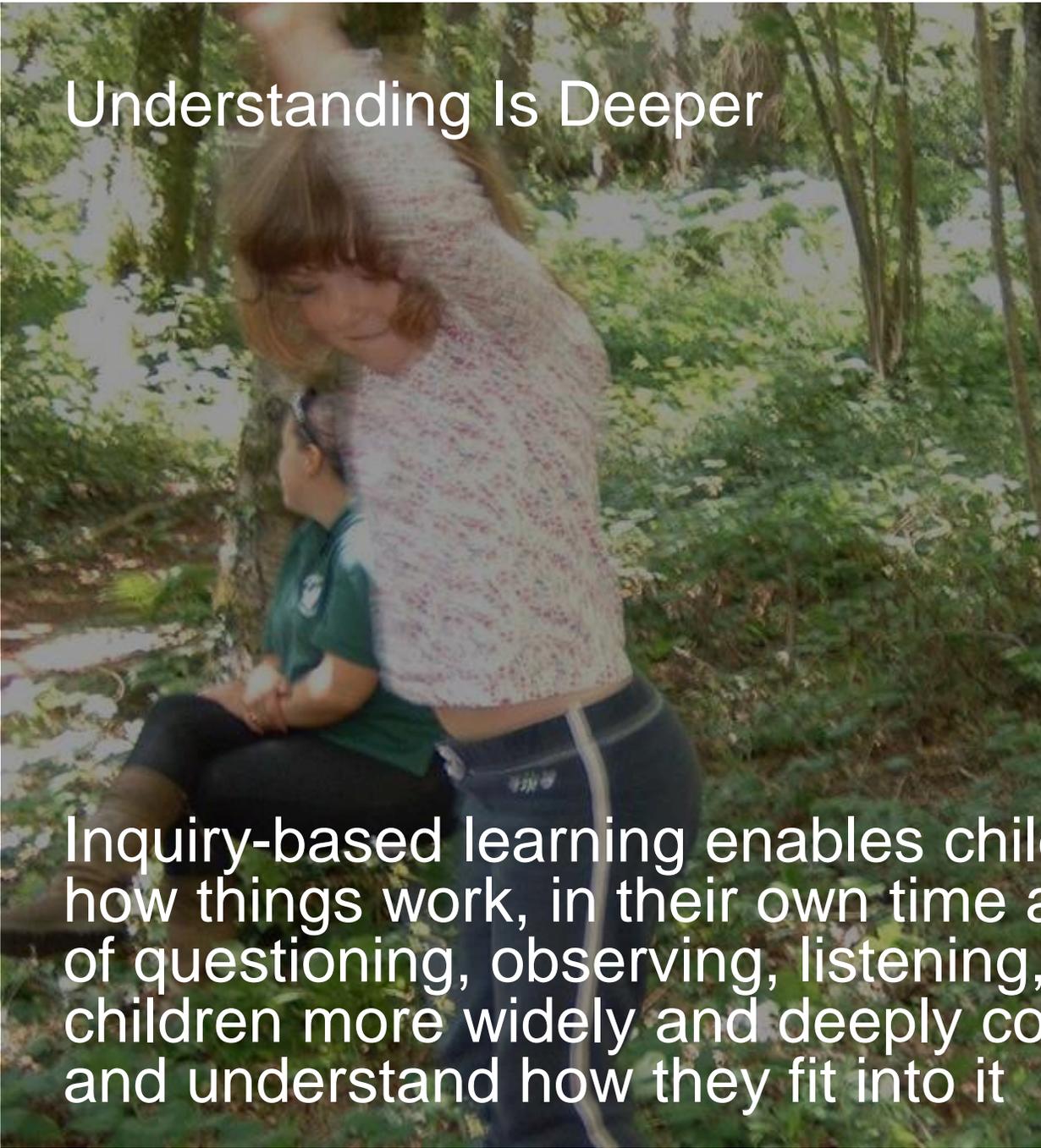
Independent thinking, critical analysis, creativity, curiosity, and the freedom to learn anywhere all combine to enable children to continually thrive in a rapidly-changing world



Learning Is Fun

When children get to decide what they'd like to explore, education becomes infinitely more fun. Inquiry-based learning keeps things compelling for each individual child, especially for those that respond strongly to hands-on experiences.

Research has shown children are actively interested and engaged; they have better general learning outcomes than with traditional, classroom-oriented educational models



Understanding Is Deeper

Inquiry-based learning enables children to discover for themselves how things work, in their own time and in their own way. A framework of questioning, observing, listening, thinking, doing and sharing helps children more widely and deeply comprehend the world around them, and understand how they fit into it





VIRTUAL NATURE SCHOOL

Weekly live trainings

Every week for 6 weeks a new inquiry

Each week list of useful resources

Weekly assignment uploaded on LMS

Daily provocations

Weekly Trainings.

Practitioners , Practice and Environment

Being Curious

Movement looking at body language/ gestures

Outdoor experiences and Language

Play affordance and Heuristic Play

Explores what materials give or afford the children. We come to know the natural world through handling it and being with it inside, outside and beyond the gate.

When we connect to the essence of what it is then we can start to explore all the possibilities of what it can afford children in their play

Leadership for Change in Nature Pedagogy -Improvement planning



6 weeks of Inquiry

Looking Up

Looking Down

Looking At

Looking Under

Looking Through

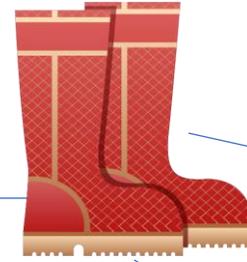
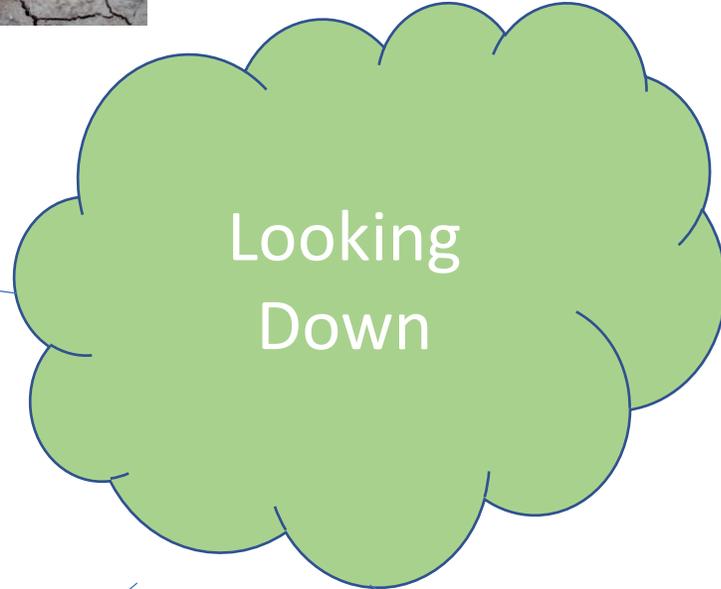
Looking In





Pattern
size

Footprints and tracks

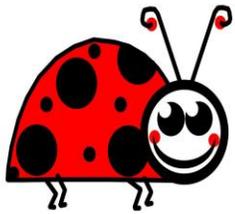


At feet

Size
Pattern
colour

Sorting
Own criteria

materials



minibeasts

Living things



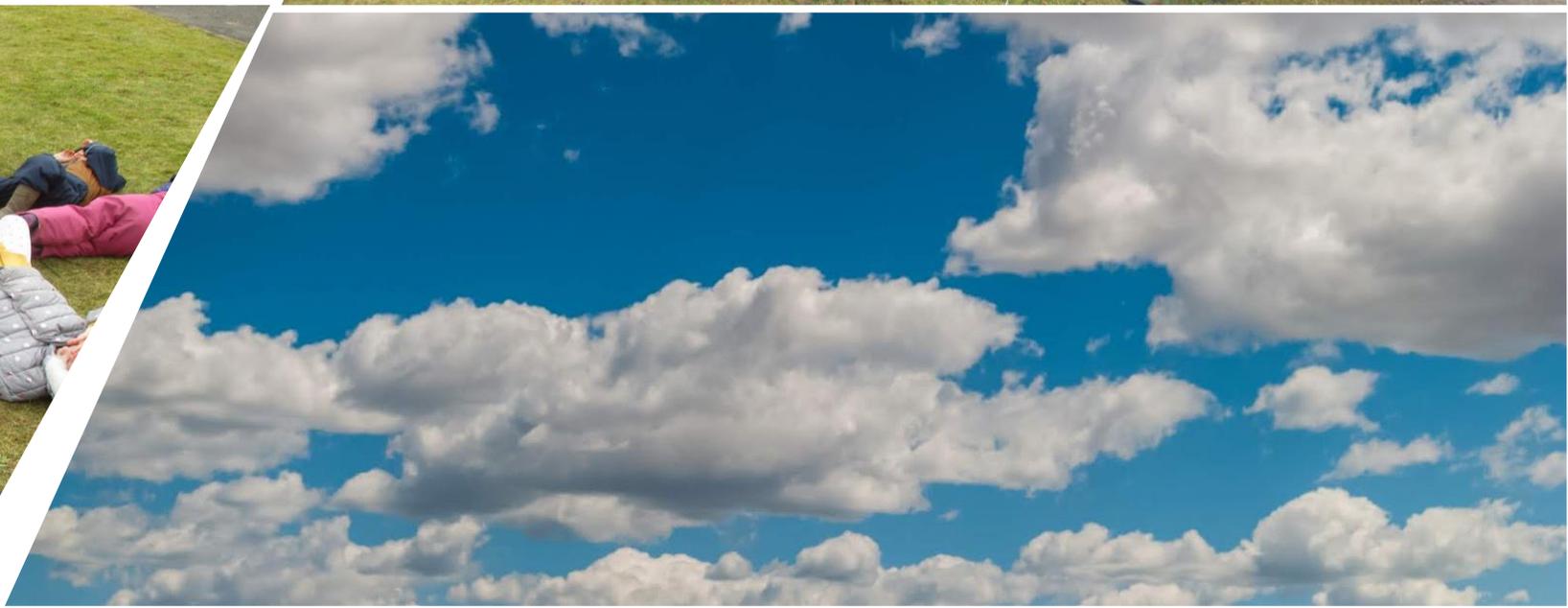
Plants

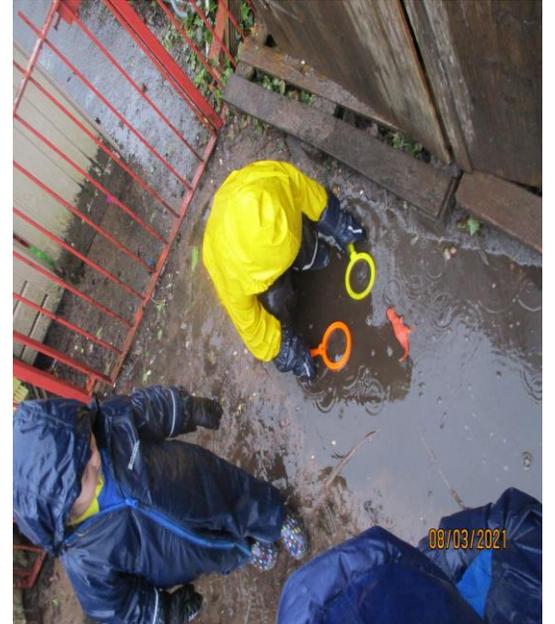
Water
Mud





Looking Up





Looking Down

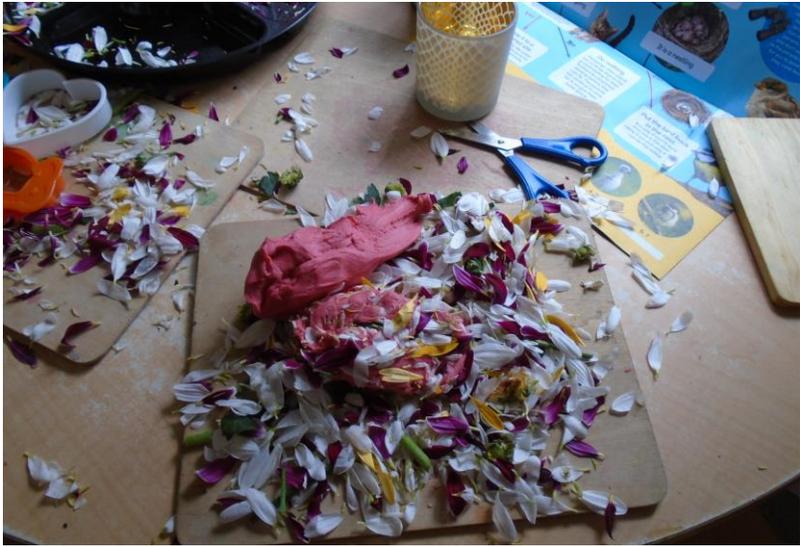


Looking Through





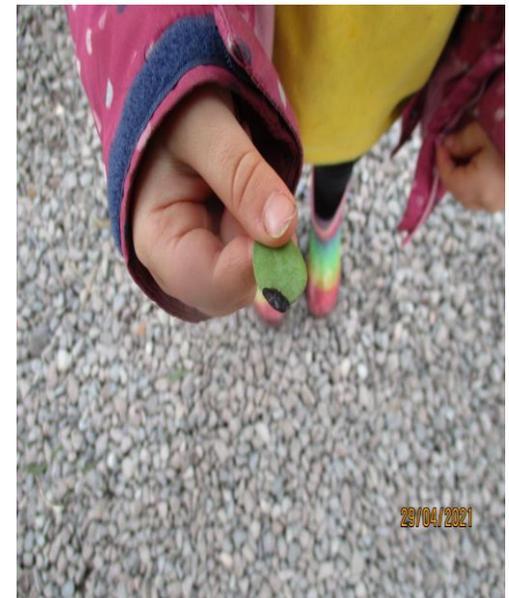
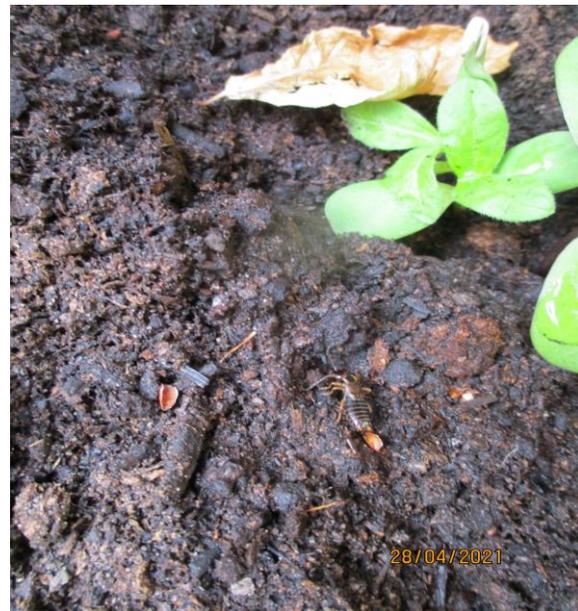
Looking In





Looking At





Looking Under



A close-up photograph of a water penny larva on a body of water. The larva is positioned in the center of a series of concentric ripples that radiate outwards from its point of contact. The water is a light, warm brown color, and the ripples create a textured, circular pattern. The larva's long, thin legs are visible as it moves across the surface.

Challenging Times

All the ladies participating in Virtual Nature School would like to take this opportunity to thank you our colleagues for your patience and support which has allowed us to fulfil the necessary requirements to fully participate in this training.