



## How can I support my child in developing enjoyment for Outdoor Learning in school?

Please ensure your child comes dressed appropriately for the season/ weather on their Outdoor Learning day. eg. hats, gloves, suitable footwear, sun cream etc.

## How can I support my child in developing enjoyment for Outdoor Learning at home?

Here are some suggestions which you could try to support your child in their Outdoor Learning:

1. Nature walks in the garden, park, local area etc and discuss what you see, hear, smell, taste and touch.
2. Create pieces of natural artwork using resources which can be found outside.
3. Use resources which can be found outside as a story starter.
4. Allow to explore their surrounding safely and where possible deviate from the normal path.
5. Set simple tasks eg. Find 5 yellow things. Find 5 big things and 5 small things etc.
6. Look at objects in different ways eg. From varying angles and perspectives.
7. Try and give opportunities for children to explore the outdoor environment in a relaxed and fun way!



ABERUTHVEN PRIMARY  
SCHOOL



**OUTDOOR LEARNING**  
Information for Parents & Guardians





## What is Outdoor Learning?

Outdoor Learning is a broad term that includes: outdoor play, school grounds projects, educational activities, personal and social, trips, team building, leadership training, environmental education, education for sustainability and more.

Outdoor Learning does not have a clearly defined boundary but it does have a common core...**All forms of Outdoor Learning value direct hands on experiences.**

Outdoor Learning can provide a contrast to the indoor classroom. Direct experience outdoors can be motivating and compliment indoor experiences. Through skilled teaching, outdoor experiences can offer opportunities for personal growth and breakthroughs in learning.

## What do we aim to provide for our pupils in Aberuthven PS?

Aberuthven Primary School sets out to provide opportunities for pupils to become knowledgeable about nature; be aware of what constitutes safe practise outdoors; able to discuss the benefits of learning outdoors and develop skills for life to enhance their learning in other curricular areas where appropriate.

We aim to instil a love of the outdoors and enjoyment of outdoor experiences across our school community, by embedding the necessary knowledge and skills pupils will need both now and in the future into our weekly outdoor learning experiences.

## What are the benefits of Outdoor Learning for our pupils?

There is now a substantial base of national and international evidence about the benefits of taking learning outdoors. The impact of outdoor learning on children and young people's physical and mental health and wellbeing, wider achievements, attainment and personal development is often recognised by





practitioners. There are some general benefits from taking learning outside within and across curriculum areas:

- Connections are made experientially with the real world outside the classroom, helping to develop skills, knowledge and understanding in a meaningful context.
- Outdoor environments and surroundings act as a rich stimulus for creative thinking and learning. This affords opportunities for challenge, enquiry, critical thinking and reflection.
- Children and young people find that not everything outside matches the models or the textbooks. This does not mean that what they have found is 'wrong'. Instead, it develops awareness of the complexities of the real world and can help to develop critical thinking skills.
- Children and young people are able to understand the relevance of a subject taught in school to everyday life.

- Children and young people can sometimes behave differently outdoors. Quiet pupils may speak more, others become calmer and more focused when outside, especially in a natural space.

- The multi-sensory experience outdoors helps children and young people to retain knowledge more effectively. There are opportunities for pupils to learn with their whole bodies on a large scale.

- Learning in a less structured environment can provide a different learning experience from that of the classroom.

- Being outdoors can be a more relaxing learning experience for many learners.

**Find out more about Outdoor Learning by visiting:**

\*[Outdoor Learning \(education.gov.scot\)](https://www.education.gov.scot/)

\*[What is Outdoor Learning \(outdoor-learning-research.org\)](https://www.outdoor-learning-research.org/)

\*[Primary Outdoor Learning and Play | Learning through Landscapes \(tl.org.uk\)](https://www.tl.org.uk/)

