A new specialist qualification in outdoor play and learning for early years practitioners

The Certificate in Outdoor Practice has been designed by Professor Jan White specifically to enable early years practitioners to provide really effective learning experiences for children from 2 to 5 years old every day, throughout the year.

The course runs as a mix of experiential and 'digging deeper' discussion sessions, one day per month over a whole year, followed by making concrete changes in your own setting, with observation, reflection and evaluation of these developments forming the assessment for accreditation (Level 3 OCN, 15 credits). Its structure works to embed long-term, transformational practice that sustains continuing development of both school and staff team long after the course.

Starting from the Summer Term, the Certificate in Outdoor Practice consists of three modules, undertaken one per academic term:

Module 1 focuses on your **environment**:
Creating rich experiences outdoors;

Module 2 focuses on **child** development:
Supporting learning outdoors;

Module 3 focuses on managing **outdoor learning**:
Making your outdoor provision work well.

Intent – the purpose of the qualification is to guide you to:

- deeply understand child development and outdoor pedagogy, strengthening your ability to support learning and development outside;
- create a strong, enabling outdoor learning environment that matches how young children learn with the special nature of the outdoors.

Implementation – during the course you will:

- develop provision that provides a rich menu of possibilities for learning through a combination of real experiences and play;
- build a pedagogy for making the most of the unique and different nature of the outdoors to enable young children's learning;
- solve organisational and management issues to make your outdoor provision work really well.

Impact - by the end of the year you will:

- be comfortable, confident and competent in working with everything the outdoors has to offer;
- have a rich and powerful outdoor environment that is effective and enjoyable for all, demonstrating leading practice for others;
- find children enthusiastically engaging in active hands-on, holistic and deep learning, motivating critical and creative thinking in all aspects of your curriculum;
- have fostered every child's health, wellbeing, self-regulation and confidence as a learner.

Bristol course details

Where?
The training days for the Certificate in Outdoor Practice will be held at Hartcliffe Nursery School & Childrens Centre, Hareclive Road, Hartcliffe. BS13 OJW.
There is plenty of on site parking.
For 'how to get there' guidance visit their website at www.hartcliffenursery.co.uk

When?
In person training days will take place once a month on Saturdays, from 9.30am to 3.30pm on the following dates:
- 30th April 2022
- 21st May 2022
- 18th June 2022
- 16th July 2022
- 1st October 2022
- 15th October 2022
- 12th November 2022
- 3rd December 2022
- 21st January 2023
- 25th February 2023
- 25th March 2023
- 22nd April 2023

Open College Network accreditation
Outdoors Thinking is an OCN Approved Training Centre and the Certificate in Outdoor Practice is registered for 15 credits at level 3 (each Module carries 5 credits).

How much does it cost?
The full fee for the 12-day OCN accredited Certificate in Outdoor Practice course for 2022-23 is £1200 (working out to £100 per training day) +VAT.
For this course only, **Bristol City Council is able to half-fund 20 places for Early Years Practitioners, Teachers and TA, PVIs and Childminders,** so that one place per setting is available for just £600 +VAT for the whole qualification.

How to register your interest
If you would like to register your interest in the course and apply for a place subsidised by 50% by Bristol City Council, please contact Pippa Hawkins at Pippa.Hawkins@bristol-schools.uk

For further information about the course, please contact Esther Mason at info@outdoorsthinking.co.uk   Bookings will be open until Friday 8th April 2022.