



National
Guidance

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Outdoor Learning – Outcomes for Children and Young People

There is substantial evidence that outdoor learning can be effective at achieving a wide range of outcomes for children and young people. Reports and research summaries can be found in the 'Making the Case' section of National Guidance, at: <https://oeapng.info/downloads/making-the-case/>.

The following outline is organised using the framework of Every Child Matters, which was government policy from 2003 to 2010, and was underpinned by the Children Act 2004. The Every Child Matters framework continues to provide a useful way of looking at outcomes.

1. Children and Young People Learn to Be Healthy and Stay Safe

They:

- Develop greater self-awareness and respect;
- Participate in healthy physical activity;
- Know more about the benefits of physical fitness and the lifelong value of participating in healthy leisure activities;
- Develop respect, tolerance and empathy in relationships;
- Understand the benefits of healthy eating;
- Adopt a positive attitude to challenge and adventure;
- Develop the ability to manage risk.

2. Children and Young People Learn to Enjoy and Achieve

They:

- Enjoy participating in activities;
- Acquire a range of activity skills;
- Show an increased motivation and appetite for learning;
- Raise their attainment in other aspects of their education;
- Broaden their cultural, aesthetic and spiritual awareness.

3. Children and Young People Learn to Make a Positive Contribution and Achieve Economic Wellbeing

They:

- Develop awareness of, and respect for, other people and the environment;
- Develop positive social attitudes, responsibility and commitment;
- Better understand the importance of conservation and sustainability;
- Demonstrate:
 - Improved self-reliance;
 - Increased initiative & enterprise;
 - Greater responsibility;
 - More perseverance;
 - More commitment;
- Develop and extend their key skills:
 - Communication;
 - Problem solving;
 - Leadership;
 - Teamwork.