



National
Guidance
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Using OEAP Outdoor Learning Cards

Scope and Remit

OEAP Outdoor Learning Cards introduce a range of activities for use with children from the Foundation Phase through to Key Stage Three and beyond. They have been created to assist and accredit non-specialist leaders to deliver high quality outdoor learning, off site visits and learning outside the classroom activities, and to help young people to develop a range of skills related to these activities. They support learning across the curriculum, help to promote physically active and healthy lifestyles, and help young people to develop positive attitudes towards self, others and the environment.

The activities engage young people in safety education by encouraging them to manage risk sensibly and contribute to raising achievement by providing high quality outdoor learning experiences.

Outdoor Learning Cards are available from Harvey maps at:
www.harveymaps.co.uk/acatalog/Outdoor-Learning-Cards-MOLC.html.

Some Outdoor Education Advisers deliver courses to support the use of the cards - see www.outdooreducationadvisers.co.uk/training.

Activities

Activities are based on the ideas contained in the pack of 50 Learning Cards. Each card provides an initial idea that can be developed to support a wide range of learning outcomes and curriculum areas.

The Learning Cards are designed to encourage greater use of the school grounds and the local area.

Benefits and Learning Outcomes

The benefits and learning outcomes of using Outdoor Learning Cards can include:

- co-operating and working with others;
- support subject-specific curriculum;
- improved enthusiasm and motivation;
- appreciation of the local environment;
- group decision-making;

- effective communication - listening and speaking;
- managing risk;
- safety education;
- coping with challenge;
- experiential learning.

Place Within Curriculum Planning

The learning cards can be used with all year groups. The following are examples:

- Year 3 development of literacy skills (using rope slings);
- Year 4 shelter building as part of a project on nomadic lifestyles;
- Year 5 development of numeracy skills using the school's bouldering wall;
- Year 6 development of navigational skills based on a journey to and in the local park;
- Year 10 maths or English using orienteering exercises or bouldering wall activities.

Leader Competence

Leaders must be competent to undertake the planned activities. See OEAP National Guidance document [3.2d "Approval of Leaders"](#).

Planning

- Outdoor Learning Card activities should be embedded in lesson planning;
- Leaders must follow their establishment's policy and approval process for any off-site activity;
- Any significant risks involved in the activities should be assessed and managed appropriately – see OEAP National Guidance document [4.3c "Risk Management – an Overview"](#);
- Some activities may require the assistance of Assistant Leaders or Helpers;
- You should consider weather conditions and suitable clothing/footwear, and put in place contingency plans in case the weather or ground conditions make the activity inappropriate.

