

Courses Inspiring Learning Outdoors

“Creative STAR brings experience, imagination and focus to CPD. The result is the capacity to explore themes and discuss issues that would perhaps otherwise take a lot longer - excellent.”

Alford Academy teacher, Aberdeenshire

We deliver practical and popular courses aimed at primary and nursery school staff, including head teachers. These training sessions can be delivered on-site or at a nearby establishment. Most half day or 2hr courses can be delivered as twilight sessions.

We have carefully designed our courses to ensure participants:

- ★ Feel inspired and motivated to take children outside more often
- ★ Gain practical ideas and reflect on their own practice
- ★ Develop their understanding of learning and teaching processes outdoors
- ★ Have opportunities to consider learning in the school grounds and local neighbourhood

All courses involve practical outdoor activities, whatever the weather. So participants should come suitably prepared.

This brochure contains information about our standardised courses. These are always tailored to meet the needs of the participants. We can prepare bespoke courses too. Recent examples include workshops on outdoor free play and creativity outdoors.



An Outdoor Curriculum for Excellence

Duration: 1 Day Early Years Course 1 Day Primary School Course

Number of participants: Up to 20

If outdoor learning is a key school improvement then this course provides the basics. This course aims to broaden and deepen understanding of the nature of effective outdoor learning experiences for children and helps participants to make the most of their current outdoor space and nearby areas as a context for learning.

Participants will:

- ★ Audit their current practice in outdoor learning
- ★ Assess the potential of their school grounds as a place for learning outdoors
- ★ Undertake an ambulatory activity as the group explores the local neighbourhood
- ★ Develop a plan or series of activities to undertake outdoors with their class
- ★ Learn how to increase the quality and quantity of outdoor activities they undertake with their class

"We've all come back from our walk with a non-menopausal glow - even the men! Good practical toilet discussion." C Macdonald, Kellands School, Aberdeenshire.



Whatever the Scottish Weather

Duration: 2h Early Years Course 2h Primary School Course

Number of participants: Up to 20

This 2 hour workshop for pre-school staff looks at practical ways of ensuring children get outdoors every day, all-year round, whatever the weather!

The course aims:

- ★ To develop participants' commitment and enthusiasm for outdoor play whatever the weather
- ★ To introduce resources, preparation, ideas and adult roles for supporting children's learning outdoors in all weathers.

"Very friendly and informative - excellent speaker" Class Teacher, Banff Primary School, Aberdeenshire

Outdoor Active Problem Solving

Duration: 1.5h Early Years Course 1.5h Primary School Course

Number of participants: Up to 25

This is problem solving at its best! Creative STAR has developed a hands-on, 2-hour workshop which gives school staff lots of ideas for integrating team building challenges into a variety of project work. The course is suitable for primary and pre-school staff working with children of all ages and abilities.

The course covers:

- ✧ Incorporating a problem solving approach into everyday classroom situations
- ✧ Simple activities for the Early Level and progressively more demanding ones for the First and Second Levels
- ✧ Adapting challenges to meet the individual needs of the children in a class
- ✧ Structuring an outdoor active problem solving session.

"Doing problems outdoors adds an element of fun!" Teacher, Methlick School, Aberdeenshire



Maths Outdoors

Duration: 1 Day Early Years Course 1 Day Primary School Course

Number of participants: Up to 20

This course is available to pre-school settings as well as primary school staff. The Early Years course has a focus on play based, active learning. The primary school course builds upon this approach providing a smooth transition and progression through a school.

Participants will:

- ✧ Explore the outdoor area / school grounds and local neighbourhood as a rich context for developing numeracy skills across the curriculum
- ✧ Consider resource provision and practical aspects of developing maths and numeracy opportunities outdoors
- ✧ Ensure that outdoor maths is a natural and key part of the routine within a setting or school

Outdoor Literacy

Duration: 1 Day Early Years Course 1 Day Primary School Course

Number of participants: Up to 20

This one day course is available to pre-school settings as well as primary school staff. The Early Level course has a focus on play based, active learning. The primary school course builds upon this approach providing a smooth transition and progression through a school.

Participants will:

- ✧ Explore the outdoor area / school grounds and local neighbourhood as a rich context for developing literacy skills across the curriculum
- ✧ Consider resource provision and practical aspects of developing literacy opportunities outdoors
- ✧ Ensure that outdoor literacy is a natural and key part of the routine within a setting or school

"Thanks for everything Juliet - despite biting into their first day the reaction from staff was very positive."
Head Teacher, Kintore School, Aberdeenshire



Natural Treasures

Duration: 2h Early Years Course 2h Primary School Course

Number of participants: Up to 20

Natural materials are cheap, easily accessible, easy to collect or source sustainably and when used as part of a planned approach can increase children's creativity and imagination. This 2 hour workshop for either pre-school staff or primary school staff covers:

- ✧ The need for children to have opportunities to use natural materials based
- ✧ Exploring the potential of natural materials as key resources for the outdoor area
- ✧ Ideas and inspiration to enable staff to adapt and develop their practice to include use of natural materials in the classroom, outdoor area and local greenspace.

Grounds for Learning Courses and Site Visits

Several of our consultants are professional school grounds advisors who carry out work on behalf of Grounds for Learning, the Scottish School Grounds charity. Should you wish to arrange a site visit to give you practical ideas and suggestions about developing your outdoor area as part of your school improvement plans, contact their office, tel: 01259 220887.

"It was fantastic to have someone who was very knowledgeable in this area. It gave us an amazing number of ideas." Early Years Manager, West Dunbartonshire



Before and after photos of Ellon School who received support to develop their grounds through an *RBS Supergrounds* Award

Prices

Courses

- ★ £320 per 2 hour twilight session up to 20 participants
- ★ £750 per whole day up to 20 participants

Outdoor active problem solving courses

- ★ £250 per 1.5 hour twilight session up to 25 participants

For numbers exceeding 20 participants, an extra trainer is required. This costs £260 per day. For twilight sessions this is £150 per twilight.

Prices do not include

- ★ VAT
- ★ Cost and organisation of venue hire and catering
- ★ Transport and subsistence, where applicable.

Get a 10% reduction in costs

- ★ If your school has a current Grounds for Learning membership
- ★ If booked by a school manager who is a member of Association Head Teachers and Deputies Scotland (AHDS)

Book Your Course

Please telephone 07802 800167 or e-mail info@creativestarlarning.co.uk