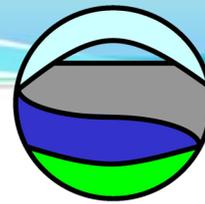


Participant Feedback, OASES Accredited Active Learning



Outdoor
And
Sustainability
Education
Specialists

'Before I started the outdoor learning course I didn't feel confident enough to take a full class of children outside but the ideas and activities given during the OASES course inspired me to take learning outdoors. The lessons went well, the children were engaged and motivated (as well as myself!) with no behaviour issues. The children took personal responsibility over their work and were thrilled to do something different. Moving forward I plan to take more lessons outside.' Emma Dempsey, St Chads RCVA Primary School

'I was amazed at how the children were engaged and thoroughly enjoying the sessions. Therefore I have started to take the children outside more in all areas of the curriculum and will be conducting a whole school PD day to help develop and promote outdoor learning.' Jeanette Collier, South Stanley Infant School

'The children showed enjoyment and enthusiasm throughout the session. Behaviour throughout was excellent and as a teacher I felt proud and in a bit of a 'daydream' seeing the children so engaged and enjoying their learning. Over the next half term I am looking to develop cross curricular learning links when planning outdoor sessions.' Sarah Fahey, Coxhoe Primary School

'One boy did not like the change or the outdoors, the first session was worrying, especially when he lay on the ground and cried! Six sessions later the same boy is happy and excited to go to the forest. He now says 'forest, forest' whenever he sees me. Learning wasn't happening with this class indoors, but outdoors it is definitely happening!' Sarah Kenna, Croft Community School

'The children were so intrigued about the learning and events that occurred during the lesson outdoors that some of them conducted research at home. I believe if I had delivered this lesson using only powerpoints or photographs then the level of curiosity would have been significantly less and the level of enquiry would have been diminished. Children's observations and levels of interest were very high. Feedback from the children included comments like... 'This is the best lesson I've ever had!..' 'This is the best topic we've ever done in school' Jeni Gordon, Riverside Primary School.

'Prior to the course my maths sessions were all indoors based. During the first day of the course I began to realise how easy it was to take maths outdoors. I began to see more opportunities to take my lessons outdoors. I observed that the children were not only increasing their maths skills but also their confidence and their attitude to have a go. As my confidence and enjoyment for outdoor maths has grown I delivered a session to staff to increase outdoor maths throughout the school.' Fiona Bell, Nevilles Cross Primary School

'I had been quite reluctant to take the children outside due to some behaviour issues in the class however I actually found that behaviour was better and that the children were more focused outdoors than indoors. The experience has given me more confidence to take English outdoors (previously I would have been much happier with Science) and I will be talking English outdoors much more frequently in future.' Sara Deakin, Victoria Lane Primary School

Participant Feedback, OASES Accredited Active Learning



Course participants are required to monitor the progress of 3 students over the course of 3 assessed outdoor learning sessions. Out of the 30 children that were observed in the last cohort the teachers recorded that:



- All of the children had a **positive outdoor learning experience**, although some had to adjust to the new way of working.
- All of the children **displayed increased interest and engagement in learning** as a result of going outdoors.
- Only 1 child did not exhibit a significant increase in engagement and this was because they were *'already engaged and enthusiastic in the classroom and continued to be so outside'*.
- The 9 children described as being of **lower ability** all demonstrated the **greatest improvement in engagement and achievement** as a result of going outdoors.
- **Higher ability students** were documented as **increasing in social skills and confidence** during the outdoor lessons.

Riverside Primary School — Example of One Child's Learning Journey

'Child A struggled to recall the names of minibeasts in class when looking at slides; very engaged in content. During the talk about behaviour this child was silly and overexcited. Once outdoors this child was kept close to me and reminded about silly behaviour however, after a short period, was so enthused by the activity that he settled down and was very engaged, although still struggled with scientific vocabulary. As a mixed ability pupil it was interesting to see his peers offer him support and guidance and show him how to identify minibeasts. Child stayed on task throughout activity but a little 'hyper'.

'Child A was somewhat excited but all the class were given a strict talk about acceptable behaviour and he managed to control his excitement (in fact, his class teacher used the threat of not going out for a few days beforehand to keep him in check). Had remembered facts remarkably well from last lesson and made comparisons between different habitats. Was focused and on task and eager to learn.'

'Child A was really excited (but controlled) about next lesson outdoors, even passing comment if he saw me on the yard. Again he displayed limited vocabulary in the lesson prior to the investigation however, once outside, he was engaged and engrossed in the activity.'