



Outdoor Environments

Early Years Professional Development Centre

Autumn Term 2024
















The seasons may have turned but young children still have the energy and desire to play. Children are still growing during the autumn and winter months, and being inactive is not conducive to their muscular development. Keeping them active keeps them strong and healthy.




Autumn offers so many awesome ways to stimulate your child's imagination through play. Den building, scavenger hunts, leaf rubbing – the list is endless. Towns, parks and the countryside give so many opportunities for developing problem solving and imaginative skills.



exposure to more diverse weather conditions such
as strong winds, rain and snow builds resilience in
children.

Learning to adapt to changing environments
equips them with valuable life skills

A magnifying glass is positioned over a piece of white paper. The paper has text printed on it. Above the text, a wooden clothespin is holding a piece of paper with a yellow and orange autumn leaf. The background shows a textured surface, possibly a book cover or a table.

Children love collecting things, so grab a bag or bucket and go for a walk and scavenger hunt in the autumn sunshine. Conkers, leaves, acorns – the list of possible treasures is long.

Outdoor play through the seasons in an OOSC environment

Outdoor play doesn't need to stop at your club once the cold arrives, the sun sets, and darkness appears. Consider how you can make outdoor play throughout Autumn and Winter engaging and exciting for the children in your club.

A cold or wet day shouldn't stop the children from accessing quality outdoor play. Are there any spare wellies or gloves you could provide to enable children to help themselves to? This gives children a degree of autonomy when choosing whether to play outside or not.

Some of you may have canopies or shelters which are great for allowing children to still access the fresh air of the outdoors but be a little bit more protected against the elements. Make the most of these areas and consider bringing indoor activities out, such as construction or craft play where resources will also be protected under a shelter.

This term, our out of school resource trolley focus is on outdoor play throughout the Autumn term with ideas to inspire you to consider your own resources at your club.













Wash down for some
water cleaning and a
brush with just water
brushes and paper
brushes. Use if possible
sticks using solution
wipes





















