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OUTDOOR PLAY THROUGH THE SEASONS



MODULE 1 ASSESSMENT

This topic has been developed with Sue Asquith, an International Early Childhood Consultant. The course covers the importance of children having access to quality outdoor learning experiences all year round, and how by leading with children's interests, outdoor learning can be an extension of the learning taking place indoors. The content offers practical guidance on achieving consistency and accessibility in outdoor play through all seasons with a focus on the importance of the outdoors being part of a child's everyday continuous provision, how to over-come weather related barriers and the value of using outdoor spaces in all areas of learning.

The following assessment will support you in reflecting on your environment and practice. You will be able to demonstrate that the information you have listened to has embedded and your answers will create new opportunities to implement learning through risk in your setting.

QUESTION 1

List 3 benefits of children enjoying the outdoors in all weathers.

QUESTION 2

Within our outdoor areas, we should always be looking to enhance what nature provides daily as a stimulus. Can you describe two ways to ensure this?

QUESTION 3

When reviewing the outdoor environment, what is important?







OVERCOMING WEATHER-RELATED BARRIERS IN OUTDOOR PLAY



MODULE 2 ASSESSMENT

QUESTION 1

Outdoor play is a statutory requirement with the EYFS, what can you do to meet this requirement if you have limited or no outdoor space?

QUESTION 2

In the podcast, shower caps were discussed; what could adding shower caps support with?

QUESTION 3

Why is outdoor play in all weathers and seasons important for child development?



Click here to listen to the TTS Talking Early Years Podcast





CONTINUOUS PROVISION IN THE OUTDOORS



MODULE 3 ASSESSMENT

QUESTION 1

What could continuous provision be defined as outdoors?

QUESTION 2

Could you give two examples of teachable moments the outdoor environment can provide?

QUESTION 3

Why s Cultural Capital important when reviewing outdoor learning and children's engagement?







THE VALUE OF USING OUTDOOR SPACES FOR ALL AREAS OF LEARNING & THE ROLE OF THE ADULT



MODULE 4 ASSESSMENT

QUESTION 1

What could you add to a construction area to expand the learning opportunities, and what could these learning opportunities be?

QUESTION 2

How could you encourage Phase 1 phonics in the outdoor learning environment? Please provide examples.

QUESTION 3

In the podcast Alistair gave an example of a setting implementing a pirate ship to the outdoor area, what was the effect of this implementation?





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OUTDOOR PLAY THROUGH THE SEASONS



REFLECTION SECTION

From listening to all 4 episodes and completing all assessments as part of this module, it is now time to highlight the key takeaways and knowledge you have gained from this Continuous Professional Development module.

Key areas to reflect on:

- What have you learnt and how this will impact your practice?
- What changes you intend to make in your setting from the knowledge you have gained from this module?
- What is the desired impact of the changes you intend to make for the children?

Please also ensure to give a copy of this assessment including your reflection section to your senior leader, this is a key part of Ofsted 3 I's when reviewing, reflecting and making changes and will support you in your next inspection.







OUTDOOR PLAY THROUGH THE SEASONS

REFLECTION SECTION CONTINUED











OUTDOOR PLAY THROUGH THE SEASONS



ANSWER SHEETS



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OUTDOOR PLAY THROUGH THE SEASONS



MODULE 1 ASSESSMENT ANSWERS

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The following assessment will support you in reflecting on your environment and practice. You will be able to demonstrate that the information you have listened to has embedded and your answers will create new opportunities to implement learning through risk in your setting.

QUESTION 1

List 3 benefits of children enjoying the outdoors in all weathers.

Answer 1 (Answers may vary)

- The sensory experience of listening to and feeling different weather conditions such as the wind, rain, and snow.
- Discovering about seasons and the changes that happen in the environment such as crunchy leaves falling off the trees
- Exploring ice, how this changes and responds throughout the day

QUESTION 2

Within our outdoor areas, we should always be looking to enhance what nature provides daily as a stimulus. Can you describe two ways to ensure this?

Answer 2 (Answers may vary)

- Giving children tools to encourage creativity such as pots and jugs to collect rain or paper and/or kites to catch the wind and review the strength of the wind in different directions.
- Gather a selection of sheets, curtains and pegs together with string, bean poles and masking tape, and let the children have a go at building their own magical spaces where imaginations can run wild, and anything can happen.

QUESTION 3

When reviewing the outdoor environment, what is important?

Answer 3 (Answers may vary)

- A team approach to create a team ethos of outdoor learning opportunities
- Intent for learning opportunities and areas
- Creating an outdoor planning mind map as a team for inspiration.







OVERCOMING WEATHER-RELATED BARRIERS IN OUTDOOR PLAY



MODULE 2 ASSESSMENT ANSWERS

QUESTION 1

Outdoor play is a statutory requirement with the EYFS, what can you do to meet this requirement if you have limited or no outdoor space?

Answer 1 (Answers may vary)

- Provide outdoor activities on a daily basis indoors
- Plan outdoor experiences through outings with children

QUESTION 2

In the podcast, shower caps were discussed; what could adding shower caps support with?

Answer 2 (Answers may vary)

- Shower caps can be used for children who do not like getting their hair wet to encourage them to play outdoors and prevent children from getting too wet also by giving a child a shower cap this means no hoods are needed.





MODULE 2 ASSESSMENT ANSWERS CONTINUED

QUESTION 3

Why is outdoor play in all weathers and seasons important for child development?

Answer 3 (Answers may vary)

- Playing outside in autumn, winter, and early spring, each present their own unique opportunities for exploration and learning. Therefore, outdoor play should be embraced in all types of weather, as it is crucial for children's ongoing development.
- Playing outdoors in winter promotes physical development and well-being. This is because outdoor play encourages the use of the whole body by offering a safe space to run, jump, and exercise key muscle groups.
- Social outdoor play also provides children the opportunity to exercise and stretch their imaginations. In winter, the physical changes to the outdoor environment provide children with new opportunities for socio-dramatic play, and winter-themed games.
- Children who are encouraged to explore through play are also more likely to learn new skills and overcome challenges, which promotes self-confidence, resilience, and self-advocacy. The development of these social skills are highly important to the development of healthy social relationships, communication skills, and a strong sense of self.







CONTINUOUS PROVISION IN THE OUTDOORS



MODULE 3 ASSESSMENT ANSWERS

QUESTION 1

What could continuous provision be defined as outdoors?

Answer 1 (Answers may vary)

- Learning opportunities that might be there naturally in an open ended way
- What are the possibilities for different ages and stages in the area and how does this support's children's learning.

QUESTION 2

Could you give two examples of teachable moments the outdoor environment can provide?

Answers 2 (Answers may vary)

- A helicopter passing over.
- Following the child's interest and engaging with them on their discoveries and communications
- Investigating natural habitats enable children to find small creatures and learn about living things in the environment.
- Creating role play experiences based on children first hand experiences







MODULE 3 ASSESSMENT ANSWERS CONTINUED

QUESTION 3

Why is Cultural Capital important when reviewing outdoor learning and children's engagement?

Answer 3 (Answers may vary)

- Cultural capital means that each child arrives with a number of experiences and ideas based on their own personal circumstances, it is key to ensure that children with limited outdoor experience due to geographic location, disadvantaged and of course covid can access quality outdoor experiences.
- Following children's interests by creating role-play activities that extend their ideas is a part of Cultural Capital
- By providing resources and natural materials this can encourage children role play and imagination therefore sharing their Cultural Capital with their peers and having a shared learning experience within the cohort.



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THE VALUE OF USING OUTDOOR SPACES FOR ALL AREAS OF LEARNING & THE ROLE OF THE ADULT



MODULE 4 ASSESSMENT ANSWERS

QUESTION 1

What could you add to a construction area to expand the learning opportunities, and what could these learning opportunities be?

Answer 1 (Answers may vary)

- A tape measure to encourage numeracy development
- Clipboard and pencils to encourage 'Planning' and 'Design'
- Both of these examples would encourage imagination and communication and language

QUESTION 2

How could you encourage Phase 1 phonics in the outdoor learning environment? Please provide examples.

Answers 2 (Answers may vary)

- Environmental sounds – The outdoor environment is a subtle yet effective area to introduce phase 1 phonics, you could explore the sounds different resources make on fences, explore the sounds of nature through wind, rain and animals.

QUESTION 3

In the podcast Alistair gave an example of a setting implementing a pirate ship to the outdoor area, what was the effect of this implementation?

Answers 3 (Answers may vary)

- This was not an open-ended resource therefore this narrowed children's play down to only pirate play, this play encouraged physical play with some children and excluded others who did not engage with pirate play.



