



Ten tips for successful outdoor learning

Read Grow to School's top ten tips to taking your class outside.

1. Natural materials - Make use of natural materials creating 2 & 3D diagrams. You will often find sticks, stones, leaves, pinecones etc in your school grounds. Get the children involved in collecting a store of these items to save time when you next go out. These can be kept in boxes or buckets. If you don't have any available at school, ask the children to bring in sticks and stones or collect them on your weekend walk. You'll be surprised how quickly you can fill an Ikea bag. For ideas of what to collect see our [resources list](#).
2. White shower curtains. Cheap white shower curtains into 1m squares. These are great to use as sheets of paper to lay on the ground outside. They provide a good backdrop to see the work more clearly for taking photos for evidencing (see tip 4).
3. Labelling work - Laminate pieces of plain A4 paper and cut into strips. These can be used with whiteboard markers to label diagrams and drawings
4. Take photos of the children's work to stick in relevant books for evidence!
5. Limit work area - It is useful to limit how far away you want the children working so you can see them. Set an easily visible area to stop them roaming and for controlling behaviour.
6. Set boundaries. Apply the same behavioural boundaries, expectations and control measures outdoors as you do indoors
7. Mixed ability groups – It works well to divide your class into mixed ability groups and make sure everyone has a job to keep them on task.
8. The expression "There is no such thing as bad weather only bad clothing" is true - BUT it applies to you as much as the children. If you are not suitably dressed don't go outside - save it for another day!
9. Investigation stations – use benches, tables, or trays as investigation stations. This encourages scientific language, reasoning, and learning
10. Have a look at our [risk benefit approach](#) to help you rationalise the risks around outdoor learning and using natural materials.