



SEN / NURTURE GROUP CASE STUDY

Autumn Term 2018, Hove Junior School

Why Outdoors?

Outdoor learning gives opportunities for ALL learners to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a natural context that is very different from a child's usual classroom environment. Outdoor learning sits within the wider educational offer and compliments a nurture approach.

The children

We chose 10 children from years 3-6 with social, emotional and mental health needs or other vulnerabilities.

Planning

The planning was developed to focus on different areas of the children's developmental profiles and linked to the whole school literacy focus for Autumn term. The children's high quality picture book 'The Lost Happy Endings' provided the inspiration and provided opportunities to make learning links.

Monitoring

Every child completed a Boxall profile assessment with our learning mentor before starting the group to pinpoint their precise developmental target. After the intervention finished we conducted an exit assessment to measure impact and collected pupil voice to see how the children felt the intervention had helped them.

Impact

From the children's perspective. The children were asked the following questions about the project.

Question	YES	NO
Did you enjoy the nurture project?	10	0
Did you remember your target each session?	8	2
Do you think you achieved your target?	7	3
Would you like to be involved again?	10	0
Do you think the project has helped you?	10	0
Do you think the project has helped you in the classroom?	8	2



From the children's perspective.

The children were overwhelmingly positive about the project and 100% enjoyed it, thought it had helped them and wanted to do it again. 70% believed they had achieved their target and 80% thought the intervention had helped them with learning in the class as well as outside.

The pupils described the things they enjoyed, such as going to a circus, reading a story together, making dens and lighting a fire from a ferrous rod. They were very articulate in describing how the project has helped them and it was lovely to see how they supported each other and were proud of their own achievements and the achievements of others during the project.

Children's quotes

"I am proud because I tried to make fire and it worked - I did it!"

"It has helped me and now I have lots of friends"

"It has helped us all. I didn't like talking to people but now I can talk in front of some people"

"We know each other and we trust each other"

From the school's perspective

Teachers or familiar members of staff filled in Boxall profiles before and after the project. They had to score the children on various developmental and diagnostic behaviours or traits.

Each child was then given an individual profile report with their particular strengths and developments highlighted. We found that 90% of children made improvements in both their total developmental score and their total diagnostic score. Showing improvements in their interest and purposeful interaction with other, resilience and self-acceptance.

There were also significant improvements in the way they now respond constructively to others.

The Future

Following this trial we have planned further Outdoor Project Nurture Groups across both of our sites to ensure more children are able to benefit from a fresh perspective on what learning looks like.

We hope the intervention goes from strength to strength allowing vulnerable children to feel supported.

We strongly believe that once children are emotionally ready to learn they will strive in all areas of life.

