



## About Us

Little Sticks Forest School offers children the opportunity to spend time enjoying the great outdoors in our woodland settings. Our Aspull camp consists of forest cabins with toilets, kitchen and cosy areas and indoor heated space. Our site on the grounds of Greenslate Community Farm has use of onsite toilets and indoor use of the barn and polytunnels as well as our own dedicated cabin which is heated.

The outside spaces at both our sites include a fire area (aka the fire circle) where we gather for lunch, stories and cooking. Children are encouraged to respect the fire and quickly learn how to stay safe around it. There are many structures around our camps that encourage imaginative play and physical development and we have the luxury of being able to change these regularly to meet the needs of the children.

We are lucky enough to be able to explore the whole of the Woodland sites situated next to our camps and regularly take walks to observe the abundance of wildlife, including birds, rabbits, owls and the occasional deer. We have the added benefit of visiting the onsite farmyard animals that live on the grounds of our Greenslate Farm site.

Within the woodland areas the children very quickly learn how to use the resources that the environment offers to aid their play which helps them become highly creative and imaginative.

We teach the children how to use tools safely, so they can help chop wood for the fire, whittle sticks to help cook food on our campfire or snip the saplings using the secateurs. Each day will be child led so no two days will be the same.

We spend a lot of time encouraging positive relationships between children and talk about feelings and emotions when the situations arise. For example, if a child falls over and is upset, once they are ok, we talk about how nice it is to have friends that help each other when one is hurt. We enjoy celebrating children's individual achievements and celebration rings are given to children to proudly hang on a tree. We regularly visit familiar sites within the woodland throughout the seasons and watch and discuss how they change.

The children take part in routines of snack and lunch time as well as story time. We sometimes enjoy warm snacks around the campfire, lunches and other snacks can be enjoyed in our designated picnic areas. Daily refectation time takes place before lunch time and before afternoon snack allowing us all to share our thoughts on the session.

We follow the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage), which sets out the learning and welfare requirements for all children between 0 and 5 years. You can find out more about the EYFS at [www.foundationyears.org.uk](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk). We are inspected by Ofsted in the same way as all educational settings.

## The Forest School Ethos

Forest School settings provide an incredibly unique education for children. Essentially, they are all about nurturing children and providing opportunities where they can develop confidence, self-esteem, emotional and personal skills. Over time, through regular visits to the woodland and participating in Forest School activities we aim to develop the 'whole child' and help them become, more confident, independent and creative learners. We hope they eventually see nature as an extension to their home, where they feel totally comfortable and at peace. Over time children become resilient, capable risk takers where they are skilled at assessing their own risks and develop an awareness of their own safety and that of others.

Our ultimate priority as a Forest School is that our days in the woods are child-led where the children are given the opportunities to foster their interests and ideas, become passionate about what they love and develop a thirst for knowledge. We hope that the setting is a place where children feel safe and happy and we can develop and grow as a Forest School community/ family.

## Kit list

*"There is no such thing as bad weather only inappropriate clothing."*

(old Swedish saying)

For the children's comfort and safety, it is essential that your child is dressed appropriately for every session. If a child is not dressed ready for the weather, unfortunately they will be unable to join us in the woods. Signing your child up to Forest School means making a commitment to purchase the correct clothing in order for them to enjoy their day in the woods, even in the worst weather.

In your registration pack we have included a "Suitable Clothing Information Sheet" that details what clothing and footwear your child should have for the session. Please ask a team member if you have any questions or need recommendations on suitable clothing and footwear

Please dry all clothing ready for the next session. Please follow the care instructions carefully, never leave waterproofs wet in a bag for too long, always dry on a warm radiator (inside out) or in the sun. If needed wash them on a short, cold rinse cycle (without powder) or hose them down. Do not hang them outside in freezing conditions. If you look after the waterproofs, they will last the whole year and beyond.

All our staff are knowledgeable around clothing and kit so please always feel free to speak to the team if you have any questions about the "Kit List"

## Extreme Weather

Please be aware that we may have to close Forest School at short notice if we deem the weather to be too dangerous. This will be if:

**Gusts of wind over 40mph are forecast and it is not safe to access our sites**

**Snow prevents safe travel to and from the site**

**Any severe weather warning – we will check BBC weather and Met Office weather to make our decision**

Most weathers are fine to open as normal and we have the use of indoor heated space at all our sites but please be aware we may not be able to provide care when we have the weather conditions listed above.

We will keep in touch using the Family app to update parents on weather and clothing requirements so please make sure you have your phone handy on the morning of Forest School.

## Sessions & Cost

(Please note we reassess our fees every September and session prices may increase)

We offer full day sessions (8.00am to 5.00pm) and half day sessions (morning 8.00am to 12.30pm, afternoon 12.30pm to 5.00pm) 5 days a week Monday to Friday.

Our session costs from September 2026 are as follows:

Full Day Session = £65 (The £65 includes the Forest School session fee of £6.50 see below)

Half-Day Session = £32.50 (The £32.50 includes the Forest School session fee of £3.25 see below)

\*All sessions are charged at £6.50 per hour with a Forest School session fee of £3.25 for half days and £6.50 for full days (The Forest School session fee is included in the overall session costs shown above).

The Forest School session fee is an extra charge for providing Forest School as an additional service to the standard EYFS curriculum. The cost is used to cover low staff to children ratios (specifically for Forest School activities), the additional cost to ensure all staff are qualified to deliver forest school sessions, snacks and drinks, insurance costs for outdoor/adventurous activities and additional consumables and clothing/clothing equipment held onsite for Forest School activities.

For children receiving 2 year old funded hours as the funding we receive is sufficient to cover both the hourly rate and the Forest School session fee we do not charge the Forest School session fee as an extra charge.

For children receiving 3/4 year old funded hours the rate set and paid by the Government and local council is significantly lower than 2-year-old funding and is primarily for the provision of the EYFS curriculum. For this reason, we charge the Forest School session fee as an extra charge.

The Forest School session fee for the 3/4 year old funded hours is a voluntary charge and you can opt out of paying this but parents/carers would need to provide their own drinks/snacks/consumables and it may mean that some activities specifically related to the provision of Forest School may not be provided for your child.

If you access 3/4 year old funding but don't feel you can afford the Forest School session fee or do not wish to pay for the additional Forest School activities, please contact us to discuss your options.

**Funding:**

We offer all types of funded places including 2, 3 and 4 year old funding (15 and 30 hours), Tax Free Childcare and Childcare Vouchers. You can also split the funding if your child is attending another setting.

We are only registered to take children from 2 years old and we can access funding from the day a child turns 2. However you must have a funding code that is valid from before the start date of the term in which your child is 2.

All fees are invoiced monthly in advance of the sessions and we annualise the session costs so you will be given a set monthly amount to cover the sessions from September through to August.

**Holidays**

We are open 50 weeks of the year and only close for Bank Holidays and for 2 weeks at Christmas.

For exact dates please refer to the "About" page on our website at [www.littlesticksforestschool.co.uk](http://www.littlesticksforestschool.co.uk)

**Policies**

All our policies can be found on our website at [www.littlesticksforestschool.co.uk](http://www.littlesticksforestschool.co.uk). These include our general policies, privacy policy and GDPR Policy. We would ask all parents to read through these before you sign your child up to a place and to look over the policies annually as we review and update the policies every year. Should you require any assistance with understanding our policies and terms and conditions please feel free to ask a member of staff or email us at [info@littlesticksforestschool.co.uk](mailto:info@littlesticksforestschool.co.uk)