

Forest Kindergarten Leader training

SQA National Workplace Award at SCQF Level 7

Three-day SQA-accredited training, ideal for Early Years and Early Level practitioners who want to:

- provide **regular play-based learning in their nearby outdoor environment,**
- **develop individual leadership skills,**
- or to **understand more about an existing Forest Kindergarten**

During **two days of woodland activity** and **five hours of self-paced online lessons** you'll **explore and learn everything you need to know to take children regularly into nearby nature with confidence.**

Contact: admin.office@forestschoolscotland.co.uk with any queries

Forest Kindergarten or Forest School? Forest Kindergarten is a Forest School approach adapted for young children. Find out more [here](#). Unlike Forest School, tools, rope-work, fire and woodland management are not included in the initial training, but you can extend your practice through skill-specific top-up courses. If you would prefer Forest School training [view next Forest School training dates here](#).

What's in the course? The course has 3 themes, designed to guide you through the stages of setting up and running Forest Kindergarten sessions. These are:

- **Place** - finding and preparing the Forest Kindergarten site. Locating a suitable woodland and practical steps to ensure a setting can use it.
- **People** - planning and engaging with children, adults and the wider community

Prepare, inform and educate staff, children and parents about the woodland visits.

- **Pedagogy** – facilitating child-led exploration and play and nature connection. Possible lines of development to extend children's experiences of playing in the woods.

Assessment takes place through tutor observation and a short workbook.

See next page for Why choose Forest Kindergarten training with FSTC? & FAQs/

Why choose Forest Kindergarten training with FSTC?

Our trainers know that regular contact with nature matters deeply to our children's wellbeing, development and future care for the Earth. We are skilled and passionate specialists who have been leading the development of child-centred outdoor learning in Scotland for almost twenty years.

Our course is designers were involved in developing the Forest Kindergarten qualification and pioneering the development of the add-on skills courses. Aline Hill also designed and delivered the 10-year Nature Play and Nurture initiative in East and Midlothian, co-creating woodland communities with a diverse range of early years settings and training hundreds of practitioners. She holds an MA Education in Children in the Outdoors 0-5 from Centre for Research in Early Childhood, University of Birmingham. She continues to be fascinated by the ways that children and the rest of nature can support each other.

FAQs

What level is this? SQA National Workplace Award at SCQF Level 7

(= National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 4 or Higher National Certificate (HNC))

Q: are there any other costs to think about?

We recommend holding an age, activity and environment-specific first aid certificate such as our [16-hr Forest School First Aid](#) (£155 no VAT payable). This is not a requirement and you may have other appropriate first aid in place.

Q: I don't have access to a computer. Can I still do the course on a mobile phone or tablet?

A: Computers offer the most functionality with our online course platform app Gurucan. However, both Android and Mac tablets and mobile phones are supported by Gurucan.

Q. Do you provide an observation visit to a Forest Kindergarten?

A: We recommend that you observe a Forest Kindergarten session as part of your training. This is not a requirement. Students need to find their own observation session. Trainers can offer students advice on who to contact but are not responsible for providing observation sessions.

Q: I don't learn well through online learning. Can you provide those things in a different format for me?

A: I'm afraid that our course is designed to work as a blended format because we feel that there are real advantages. Five hours of our course are designed to be run online. This allows our students maximum flexibility in managing their learning in an unpredictable world.