

THE TACTYC AWARD WINNERS 2010

Elizabeth Appleton and Carol Middleton, the Colchester Children's Centre Teacher Team, are using Forest School to support children's transition into school. They are working with around 20 early years settings over the academic year and running long term Forest School projects which all take place within the children's local environments. The aim is to build in children a strong inner core of well-being, to develop nature connection and to boost communication skills, supporting them with the move into school.



One outcome of the project has been the piloting of a Forest School for practitioners. When Elizabeth and Carol realized that some of the staff in the setting themselves had no frame of reference for outdoor play they constructed a course which enabled the staff to feel and experience the excitement of edgy outdoor play.



Practitioners' comments included "You have given me some skills and knowledge to make the most of being outside with the children. By being blindfolded, having to be led or using the rope reminded me of what it is like to be a child and having no control of where I go or limits what I can do as I can't see. I want to be able to give the control back to the children," and "I think I am in a better position to allow risky play".

[The Award was given for our write-up and evaluation of our project with practitioners.]

For more details about the projects or courses contact Carol or Elizabeth
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