

Eco Warrior Knowledge Sequence Map: Fostering Environmental Stewardship

This knowledge sequence map outlines progressive objectives for children across four mixed-age primary classes, aiming to cultivate "Eco Warriors" by the end of the academic year. It integrates bi-weekly Forest School sessions as a core component for hands-on learning and connection with nature.

Overarching Vision: The Eco Warrior

By the end of the academic year, an "Eco Warrior" at our school will be someone who:

- **Understands:** Basic ecological principles, local and global environmental issues, and sustainable practices.
- **Respects:** All living things and their habitats, demonstrating care for the natural world.
- **Acts:** Takes personal responsibility for their environmental impact and participates in positive environmental actions.
- **Advocates:** Shares their knowledge and encourages others to adopt eco-friendly behaviours.
- **Connects:** Feels a deep appreciation for nature and understands their place within it.

Our Vision: What is an Eco Warrior?

By the end of their primary school journey, an Eco Warrior is a student who embodies five core principles, creating a lifelong connection to the natural world.



Understands

Ecological principles, environmental issues, and sustainable practices.



Respects

All living things and their habitats, demonstrating genuine care.



Acts

Takes personal responsibility and participates in positive actions.



Advocates

Shares knowledge and encourages others to be eco-friendly.



Connects

Feels a deep appreciation for nature and their place within it.

TEAM PANDAS

Mixed Nursery & Reception (Ages 3-5)

Focus: "Little Explorers: My World, My Care" - Developing a foundational connection with nature and understanding basic care.

Forest School Contribution: Sensory exploration, direct interaction with natural elements, simple care activities.

Objectives:

1. **I can identify and name common natural elements:**
 - Knows the names of common trees, flowers, and animals found in the local environment (e.g., oak, daisy, robin, worm).
 - Recognises different natural textures (e.g., rough bark, smooth stone, soft moss).
2. **I can show care for living things:**
 - Understands that plants need water and sunlight, and animals need food and shelter.
 - Demonstrates gentle handling of plants and small creatures (e.g., insects).
 - Helps to water plants or feed birds.
3. **I understand that we need to keep our environment tidy:**
 - Knows that litter belongs in the bin.
 - Participates in simple litter picking activities (with supervision).
4. **I can use natural materials creatively:**
 - Uses sticks, leaves, stones, and other natural items for play and art.
 - Understands that natural materials come from the earth.
5. **I appreciate being outdoors:**
 - Enjoys exploring and playing in natural spaces.
 - Talks about things they see and hear in nature.

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Advocates

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Connects

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Team Otters

Class 2: Mixed Year 1 & 2 (Ages 5-7)

Focus: "Nature Detectives: Our Local Environment" - Investigating local ecosystems and understanding personal impact.

Forest School Contribution: Deeper observation skills, understanding mini-beast habitats, simple resource conservation.

Objectives:

1. **I can describe features of local habitats:**
 - Identifies different types of habitats (e.g., woodland, pond, garden).
 - Knows that different animals live in different habitats.
 - Observes and records simple features of plants and animals (e.g., number of petals, colour of feathers).
2. **I understand the importance of reducing waste:**
 - Knows the difference between rubbish and recycling for common items (paper, plastic bottles).
 - Participates in classroom recycling efforts.
 - Understands why we shouldn't waste food or water.
3. **I can identify ways to save energy:**
 - Knows to turn off lights when leaving a room.
 - Understands that turning off taps saves water.
4. **I can explain simple food chains:**
 - Understands that some animals eat plants and some animals eat other animals.
 - Can give a simple example of a food chain (e.g., grass rabbit → fox).
5. **I am a responsible helper in our outdoor spaces:**
 - Helps to care for school gardens or outdoor areas (e.g., weeding, planting).
 - Understands the importance of not damaging plants or disturbing animals.

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Team Elephants

Class 3: Mixed Year 3 & 4 (Ages 7-9)

Focus: "Environmental Champions: Making a Difference" - Exploring environmental challenges and initiating positive change.

Forest School Contribution: Understanding interdependence, responsible tool use, identifying environmental problems and solutions.

Objectives:

1. **I can explain how human actions affect the environment:**
 - Understands basic concepts of pollution (air, water, land) and its effects.
 - Can give examples of how litter and waste harm animals and habitats.
 - Discusses the impact of wasting energy and water.
2. **I can identify sustainable practices:**
 - Explains the '3 Rs' (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and gives examples for each.
 - Understands why buying less and repairing items is good for the environment.
 - Explores alternative energy sources (e.g., solar, wind) at a basic level.
3. **I understand biodiversity and why it's important:**
 - Knows that biodiversity means many different types of plants and animals.
 - Explains why a variety of living things makes an ecosystem healthy.
 - Identifies local endangered species or habitats (if applicable).
4. **I can plan and participate in environmental projects:**
 - Contributes ideas for school eco-projects (e.g., creating a bug hotel, composting).
 - Takes an active role in carrying out these projects.
 - Can explain the purpose of their project to others.
5. **I can share my eco-knowledge with others:**
 - Creates posters or presentations to inform peers about environmental issues.
 - Encourages family and friends to adopt eco-friendly habits.

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Team Koalas

Class 4: Mixed Year 5 & 6 (Ages 9-11)

Focus: "Global Guardians: Leading the Way" - Deepening understanding of global environmental issues and advocating for systemic change.

Forest School Contribution: Advanced bushcraft skills, understanding ecosystem services, leadership in environmental initiatives.

Objectives:

- 1. I can explain key global environmental issues and their causes:**
 - Understands concepts like climate change, deforestation, ocean plastic, and habitat loss.
 - Can discuss the human activities that contribute to these issues (e.g., fossil fuels, unsustainable consumption).
- 2. I can evaluate the impact of different choices on the environment:**
 - Compares the environmental footprint of different products or activities.
 - Discusses the concept of 'carbon footprint' at an age-appropriate level.
 - Explores ethical consumption and fair trade.
- 3. I understand the concept of interconnectedness in ecosystems:**
 - Explains how changes in one part of an ecosystem can affect others.
 - Discusses the role of decomposers and nutrient cycles.
 - Understands the importance of pollinators.
- 4. I can research and present solutions to environmental problems:**
 - Investigates real-world solutions to environmental challenges (e.g., renewable energy technologies, conservation projects).
 - Develops persuasive arguments for environmental action.
 - Uses data and evidence to support their claims.
- 5. I am an active advocate for environmental protection:**
 - Participates in school eco-council or leads eco-initiatives.
 - Writes letters or creates campaigns to raise awareness.
 - Inspires younger children and the wider school community to be eco-warriors.
 - Understands that collective action can lead to significant change.