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**Forest Kindergarten Resource List**

*Scottish Forestry accepts no responsibility for the quality of the goods or services provided by the companies or websites listed in this document. We do not endorse other organisations. Whilst links have been provided, they may change over time.*

If you are short of funds, try not to worry. One of the good things about Forest Kindergarten is that it does not require huge amounts of financial outlay to get it going. We are assuming you have to set up from scratch each time and don’t have a site where you can leave things up and out.

There is a kit list in the Forest Kindergarten Trainers Manual – it includes other things to remember, e.g. fully-charged mobile phone. This handout provides more detail as to what can be used within a Forest Kindergarten session.

This resource guide helps you consider:

1. Some way of **transporting kit**: rucksack, trolley, etc. including children having their own kit.
2. **Boundary** markers, if needed
3. Some **form of shelter**, if none exists: tarp, bothy bag, etc. Remember to add in accessories such as cord, pegs, etc.
4. Provision for **snack** and **drink**
5. An approach to **toileting, hand hygiene and infection control**
6. **Litter and dog mess** management
7. Possible items to **support learning** with nature and investigations

Useful sources of second-hand kit:

* There is an Outdoor Gear Exchange Facebook group where you can pick up bargains <https://www.facebook.com/groups/usedgearexchangeuk/>
* Freecycle: put a call out for what you are looking for. It’s an online local resource. Not every part of Scotland has this available.
* Gumtree and similar online sites can also be worth looking at for second hand gear.
* Charity shops
* Gift Your Gear is a UK charity that receives outdoor kit to pass on to charities and organisations <http://giftyourgear.com>

**Transporting items to and from your Forest Kindergarten site**

* Consider how far you need to walk. Little children can build up to walking a mile as a round trip and even longer.
* Can you park a car near to where your Forest Kindergarten site is planned? Some staff will do a pre-site check, leave their car and walk up to their nursery in the morning or meet and greet on-site.
* Children should carry some gear: spare gloves, snack, drink and a sit upon mat is all doable. Some even carry their own spare clothing. Be gentle and build up to the latter.

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| **Item** | **Advice** | **Skinted** | **Minted** |
| Rucksack | * 35-45 litres in size works best * Rucksacks ensure your hands are free to hold children’s when walking * Cheap rucksacks are unlikely to last as long * Don’t test empty – you need weight in it to know how it feels. * If you are not used to walking with a rucksack then you will need to practice. Take on and off with care and follow good manual handling practices. * Look online to find out about the best way to pack a rucksack in order to have good balance and weight distribution. | Tesco’s, Asda, Lidl, Aldi, Sports Direct. | Outdoor shops. Tell the staff the intended purpose.  Muddy Faces do mid-range value <https://tinyurl.com/2b8294ma>  Muddy Faces also do a 70l dry bag ruck sack if you want to carry a lot - watch the weight as you will need to balance this against your ability to walk and look after children <https://tinyurl.com/2b8veafu>  LOMO produce dry bags of varying size <https://tinyurl.com/5ap5fkw6>  Patagonia have a good sustainable ethic. |
| Child’s backpack | * Should be large enough to take an A4 folder or football, e.g. 10 litres * Backpacks enable children to have free hands and stuff won’t get dropped * Children enjoy the responsibility of having their own and carrying seat, snack, drink and spare accessories, etc. * Check the straps are easy to adjust. Ensure the backpacks are fitted properly before setting off, otherwise they may cause frustration. * Go for gender neutral designs. | Tesco’s, Asda, Lidl, Aldi, Sports Direct. | Outdoor shops.  Often good deals can be found online, e.g. Regatta backpacks |
| Shopping bag on wheels | * Big and bright means it’s less likely to go missing. You can colour code different ones for different kit! * Not as robust as a suitcase * Carries more than a rucksack * Only one compartment with only one access point: not as child-friendly as other options * Not ideal in terms of manual handling of weight, unless you have one that can be pushed rather than just pulled. | Cosy [www.cosydirect.com](http://www.cosydirect.com) | Argos <https://bit.ly/2BxGZyD> |
| Suitcase | * Doesn’t always travel well on uneven surfaces but is okay on short grass or paths. * Surprisingly tough * Opens up so that kit is easy to find * Not ideal in terms of manual handling of weight | Put a call out for unwanted suitcases before and after the summer holidays | Go for heavy duty or the rugged outdoor ones, e.g. Peli or Eagle Creek |
| Trolley | * Kit is visible to children and easily accessible * Some types can be folded away, but these tend not to be so robust. Storage space for non-folding trolley when not in use. * Not suitable for carrying children * Easy to carry larger items * Not ideal in terms of manual handling of weight, especially as it is tempting to overload them. * Work well on rougher terrain – to a point. There is a risk of them tipping over when going over bumps and protrusions. Think about what could fall out and the damage to kit or a child/adult if the trolley is a heavy one. | Cosy <https://bit.ly/2EeHlfo> | Muddy Faces <https://muddyfaces.co.uk/shop/storage-transport-outdoors/carts-trolleys> |
| Prams and buggies | * Can be pushed and pulled. Designed for use with two hands. Less strain on adults and children * Off-roader or old-fashioned prams can cope with mixed terrain * Can be used by children who need assistance to get to FK site * Can be used for emergency (non-routine) napping by small children | Ask for donation from parents/online  Some ELCs already have for getting out and about | Reliable stockist |

**Boundary markers**

Extracted from *Out to Play* p30-31

“You can use many types of boundaries in an outdoor context. Informal features include:

* a change of surface where the edge of a path or a line of trees visually indicate the boundary
* scarves, ribbons or other decorations to create a working boundary in a woodland
* cones, branches or markers on grass in a public park
* natural feature such as an outcrop of rocks or a line drawn in the sand on a beach.

With regular practice that focuses on children’s independent ability to stay within boundaries, almost all children remember and meet the expectations. If a child struggles with this, consider why and how to positively support the child to manage this;

* How could resources and equipment be personalised to meet the child’s needs and interests in the designated area?
* How interested and engaged is this child in the play?
* What support is needed?

Observe what happens when a child chooses to ignore the boundaries. Are they seeking attention from an adult? Are they finding a space to be alone away from the group? Are they following their curiosity about something or someone? Understanding their intentions will help you provide focused support.

Involve the child in determining the boundaries. It could be they need more say in this and their behaviour is telling you about their interests.

If your site has fixed boundaries such as walls, gates, hedges or fences, you’ll need to maintain them in good condition. Planting hedges can help increase biodiversity and act as a barrier to road traffic pollutants. As an intermediate barrier, you can create a brush barrier weaving branches and other long natural materials to form a temporary barrier which can encourage brambles or other wild plants.”

**Additional comment**

Boundaries may not always be necessary. It depends on your group and your site. Sometimes visible boundaries are needed when starting up and these can eventually be removed as the children learn to stay in sight and/or hearing of an adult.

Care Inspectorate have issued a Practice Note on Keeping Children Safe: supporting trips and outings. <https://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/4858/elc-practice-note-trips-and-outings.pdf>

If you need bright tape, then consider the biodegradable options such as cellulose based biodegradable marker tape, e.g. <https://www.toolstoday.co.uk/husqvarna-20mm-marking-tape>

**Shelter**

* Always practice putting up shelter before you bring a group of children along. Otherwise it can be stressful trying to work out where and how.
* You may not always need shelter. If you have shade on a warm day then this may mitigate the need
* DD tarps have a video showing 11 different ways of erecting a shelter with a 3x3m tarp (quite large) <https://youtu.be/oNFu2Gw6CSs> This is useful if you have no idea.
* Learn the tricks to keep tarp in place, e.g. threading eyelets using sticks to hold the rope in place. If you lose an eyelet, then putting a pine cone or small stone and tying string around is a good alternative. You can also get clips to attach to tarps.
* Knots are useful to know. Download a knot tying app for step by step instructions.
* Protect trees by adding scarves to avoid wear and tear on the trunk when fixing guy ropes, etc.

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| **Item** | **Advice** | **Skinted** | **Minted** |
| Tarp | * The colour of the tarp affects the ambience. White will give you more light * Material tarps are quieter than plastic ones * Not good on windy days – eyelets can rip. Use bungee balls or shockcord to absorb stress * Consider size(s) needed. * You may need to experiment both with location and set up. * Tarps come in different weights. Generally the heavier they are, the more robust. | Tarpaflex is great value for plastic tarps and accessories <https://bit.ly/2UYr4R6>  Cosy <https://tinyurl.com/yc8fdc2f> | Versatile material DD tarp, comes with guy ropes <https://tinyurl.com/ynxn2v6t>  A cheaper equivalent is from Lomo <https://bit.ly/2EdfyMi>  When weight really matters, go for DD Superlight |
| Pop up tent | * May not pop up and pack away easily – check you know how to do this in advance * Some have poor fixings * Check how robust: many are play tents rather than designed for the outdoor life | Put a call out for donations. They may be flimsy but can offer temporary respite.  Could also be used for nappy changing. | Quechua pop up shelter <https://tinyurl.com/22uhv98r> |
| Bothy/emergency storm shelter bag | * Used as emergency shelter but can work well for group snack on inclement days * Good for warming up a group if weather turns bad suddenly. * You must practice using it with your children before going off-site * Consider ambience: range of colours available * Consider size needed: check in advance | Summit bothy bags are the original, come in a range of colours and types. The bags are roomy. 10 person will take 10 children plus 3 adults <https://bit.ly/2SUEJLB>  Can buy Summit bothy bags from Muddy Faces <https://tinyurl.com/22any42f>  Lomo provide cheap smaller bags <https://tinyurl.com/34zszp6j> | Rab equipment <https://rab.equipment/uk/sleeping-bags/shelters-tents-bivis> |
| Parachute | * Economical, provides shelter for a large group * Need to have line in place to raise quickly and therefore landowner permission to leave the line up * Do not confuse with a play parachute | Search online for a bargain ex-military variety | A larger range of types and prices can be found on DAS Outdoors <https://bit.ly/2DQjDVo> |
| Tipi | * Depending on size, can take a large group * Watch weight and fixings. Some can be cumbersome. * Drying out can be a challenge inside * Avoid play tipis. | Helsport tipis are slightly cheaper <https://tinyurl.com/3fmyxb47> | Tentipis are the high end range. Look at the Onyx adventure series. They can take a stove or other heater. Quick to put up, light enough to carry and can withstand quite strong winds. 9 person can take a group of 15+ nursery children <https://tentipi.com/en-gb/onyx> |

**Shelter accessories**

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| **Item** | **Advice** | **Skinted** | **Minted** |
| Ground sheet | * Useful if you are in a site where there’s little suitable space or natural seating * Use with insulated sit upon mats as the cold and damp will seep through | See advice on tarps  Old piece of lightweight material  DIY shops | Tweedmill recycled woollen <https://bit.ly/2SDgvWM> British made  DD magic carpets  <https://tinyurl.com/4uxx3v4b> |
| Guy ropes | * High vis are great for being easy to see. Often reflective too. But will fade over time. * Add brightly coloured tags to avoid everyone tripping over low level dark coloured guy ropes. | Tescos, Poundland, Mountain Warehouse, etc.  Go Cosy or Muddy Faces if you are tied to a finance system. | Outdoor shops |
| Paracord | * Useful all round general cord that can be used for guy ropes, etc. * Buy bright orange or high vis if you think you need this to be more visible | Buy in bulk to save money, e.g. <https://tinyurl.com/287wtajh>  Go Muddy Faces if you are tied to a finance system. | Outdoor shops |
| Tent pegs | * Ensure they are not too wide for the eyelets if using a tarp * If your children like hammering pegs into the ground, it may be better to get lots of cheap ones. Experiment until you find a type that works for your group | Tescos, Poundland, Mountain Warehouse, etc.  Go Cosy or Muddy Faces if you are tied to a finance system. | Outdoor shops |
| Mallet | * Useful on hard or frozen ground to hammer in pegs * Remember to hammer in pegs at a 45 degree angle. | Find a big rock or decent lump of wood. Hide it so you can find it each time you go to the woods.  Remember to consider how a child will manage this. | Poundland, Tesco, Mountain Warehouse, etc.  Muddy Faces <https://tinyurl.com/4yp5mfuc> |
| Bungee balls, cord and Velcro | * Useful for quickly attaching tarps, etc. to trees * Think carefully about which products are suitable for young children. * The black bungee balls are shorter and more prone to getting lost than the longer white ones | Muddy Faces <https://tinyurl.com/n4hwn6ej>  Poundland etc. | DIY shops |

**Snacks and drinks**

* Follow *Out to Play* guidance on food hygiene and snacks.
* *Setting the Table* and food hygiene standards must be adhered to.
* Go for very simple snacks which require minimal preparation and are easy to carry and store.
* Each child can carry their own snack. But take extra as it’s hungry work being in the woods and there’s volunteers who may also appreciate a bite to eat.
* Consider litter-free food. Take any waste back to the centre, even that which is biodegradable.
* Take warm soup, porridge or other warm food on cold days. <http://bit.ly/2LZaO0e>
* Think about whether a rotating snack is needed or a group snack. Experiment.

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| **Item** | **Advice** | **Skinted** | **Minted** |
| Fleece or similar lightweight blanket | * For warmth when eating snack or in a hammock | ASDA, Tesco’s, etc.  Charity shop | Tweedmill recycled woollen <https://bit.ly/2SDgvWM> British made |
| Insulated sit-upon mats | * Add a traditional camping mat to a hammock for extra warmth in winter * Use on top of ground sheet or tarp on cold or wet days. Consider drying of material based mats | Yoga or camping mats cut up  Aluminium bubblewrap cut up, e.g. <https://bit.ly/2GLF2BV>  Make your own <https://bit.ly/2Gs3jh5>  Lomo folding sit mat <https://bit.ly/2X5qjYs> | DIY peg loom mats <https://bit.ly/2Gr5OjL> and <https://bit.ly/2DKIf1o>  DIY merino wool felt seats <https://bit.ly/2GtUmDR>  Muddy Faces range of sitting mats <https://tinyurl.com/2o6bvc86> |
| Flasks | * Children need warm and not hot drinks, soup, etc. So tip top insulation may not be a priority. * Go for unbreakable varieties | ASDA, Tesco’s  Muddy Faces <https://tinyurl.com/2z7vdpzz> | Outdoor shops  Thermos <https://thermos.co.uk/> |
| Water bottles | * Each child should carry their own drinks: milk or water * Use bubble wrap or aluminium bubble wrap to keep cool | Each child brings their own, e.g. empty Fruit Shoot bottle  Put a call out for water bottles. Add duct tape if needed to make stronger | Outdoor shops |
| Cups | * Re-usable cups for drinks * Avoid single-use items | Each child brings their own  Tesco, ASDA, etc. in picnic range | Outdoor shops  Muddy Faces Fold-a-cup <https://tinyurl.com/2g2lqvcm> |

**Toileting**

* Bear in mind adult needs as well as the children. Remember to site a tarp or pop up tent slightly away from the hubbub of the main play area, if using either of these.
* Think about weight and portability. Do you have a significant walk or is your car parked close by?
* Consider how long your forest kindergarten session will last and the numbers of children and adults attending.
* Remember to check out the public toilets. Are they suitable for little children? Do you have to pay to use them? Is there a sufficient number of toilets for the size of your group?
* Can you “walk seven bushes”? Is it okay simply to move out of sight? Is it okay to wild toilet? You must check with the landowner. Remember to follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code about where to go.
* In a woodland, good practice is to remove the top cover of woodland litter (leaves, etc) to reveal the soil. Pee into this and then cover up
* Don’t make all children go to the toilet, e.g. before snack. They need to be able to go to the toilet when they need to go.
* Do not hold up little girls who need the toilet. It’s not good for your back or their dignity. Get a Potette type of potty. Remove the bags and use the potty as a little seat that enables a child to sit and pee directly into the ground. Or provide a potty and dispose of the pee into the ground.
* If you use a pop up toilet tent then practice in advance so you can put it up and fold it away in an instant. Most seem to be fairly similar. Here’s an example: <https://youtu.be/K20q1bzyGgg>
* Always take your toilet waste – nappies, bags or buckets – back to your centre and dispose of in line with other biological waste/agents. Never put them in public bins. Always clean potties and buckets in line with the *HPS Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings* advice.

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| **Item** | **Advice** | **Skinted** | **Minted** |
| Toilet roll | * Need to keep dry but easily accessible | Swedish “mulle-rulle” approach   * Remove the cardboard tube from inside the toilet roll * Place the toilet roll inside a small plastic bag, with an elastic band to close. * Feed the tissue from the inside of the roll, up through the small gap. * The tissue paper should be easily pulled out whilst protecting the roll from the worst of the weather.   Keep toilet roll in old ice cream tub and ensure lid replaced after use. | Buy a translucent dry bag. Cut a small hole in the bottom and use the “mulle-rulle” approach.  Outdoor toilet roll holder <https://amzn.to/2X74VBZ>  Sea to Summit dry bag toilet roll holder <https://amzn.to/2BGnqUW> |
| Small trowel | * This is for scraping back the wood litter on the ground. * Replace at the end of the day to leave no trace and no smell. * It’s best not to poo into the ground, except in a real emergency. When this has to happen, follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code guidelines. Discuss in advance with landowner. | Find a lightweight one you’re not using for anything else, e.g. Multipack from Cosy <https://tinyurl.com/2f5evcmv>  From a DIY shop <https://tinyurl.com/2jwuksna> | Outdoor shops have special trowels for this purpose.  Muddy Faces have a range <https://tinyurl.com/2m7lu6ln> |
| Travel potty | * Useful for emergencies, e.g. to and from the site or for short-stay sessions or for venturing out beyond your designated area | Potette 2-in-1 also works as a trainer seat to sit on top in a public toilet <https://tinyurl.com/2ekov6le> | Oxo tot also works as a trainer seat for toilets <https://tinyurl.com/2znbwmuq>  Pottiagogo <https://tinyurl.com/2ns46joq> |
| Foldable toilet | * Check height is suitable for children and can be used independently * Check stability and a child won’t make it topple. * Consider needs of adults * Consider transportation and disposal of waste bags * Practice using with children in familiar surroundings first | Muddy Faces <https://tinyurl.com/2fh3gk4n> | Google toilets for festivals. Amazing choice  Bivvi Loo – good stability but heavier  <https://tinyurl.com/2pn6ok5r>  Popaloo - collapsible toilet <https://www.popaloo.co.uk/>  Bog in a bag <https://amzn.to/2BCktEU> (more suitable for adults and older children). |
| Camping toilet | * More bulky to carry but more stable * Think about where and how the contents will be disposed. Must follow infection control guidelines for cleaning or use with bags. | Campa Khazi <https://bit.ly/2Ij69qy>  Hi Gear bucket <https://bit.ly/2trlTNM> | Google for posh ones!  Outdoor stores  <https://tinyurl.com/2pkxdp4b>  <https://tinyurl.com/2obsa2tq> |
| Toilet tent | * Think about how sturdy in moderate wind conditions * You may need to add guy lines and pegs * Consider the advantages and disadvantages of a floor. Will it also be used for nappy changing * Check if buying online that the tent is waterproof. Some just have a mesh roof. * As most are tall for adults, it may be worth considering a pop up shelter for children | Ancheer <https://amzn.to/2IiiAD5>  Wolfwise has removable floor <https://amzn.to/2BCoXLK> | Petit en-suite is a child-size tent <https://amzn.to/2SOsJvl> aimed to support little children  Quechua pop up shelter for more width and less height <https://tinyurl.com/2mswwmpy>  Popaloo <https://bit.ly/2F2TODj> do slightly smaller tents |
| Screen | * Look for a natural spot, e.g. behind a bush. * Add tarp or other material to screen: important for dignity of child and adult * Make a simple tripod shelter from 3 long sticks, e.g. wooden broom handles, in an open space <https://bit.ly/2GKBIXP> | Just use tarp or other material.  <https://www.diy.com/search?term=tarps> | Fancy windbreaks <https://bit.ly/2SSlrXs> |

**Hand hygiene**

* *HPS Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines* must be adhered to about when and how to wash hands.
* Handwipes should not be used for regular off-site trips, only when arrangements for warm water and soap cannot be made.
* Show children and practice washing hands using the correct HPS technique. Make a song and dance about it both at your setting and in the wood!
* Everyone can practice in their outdoor space as part of the preparation for getting FK up and running.

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| **Item** | **Advice** | **Skinted** | **Minted** |
| Carrying water | * Experiment with the amount of water you need for the size of the group and the duration of your visit. | Add bubble wrap or an insulated sit upon mat around a water bottle to insulate. Fill with hot tap water. It will cool a bit but still be tepid. | Flasks!  Water canister ideally with tap at the bottom Size depends upon number of children. <https://tinyurl.com/2zn7wxrn> |
| Holding water | * Lots of possibilities here * Ideally you want a system that children can access independently. In some systems, one child will need to hold the water bottle and squeeze it for another child which is also a skill in itself to acquire. | Make a tippy tap. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=293988725454595>  Take an empty water bottle. Pierce the cap carefully with several holes using a needle heated by a match. When you need to use, swap cap for the holey cap and hang upside down. The water will drip out. Insulate with bubble wrap. | Solar showers – many different sorts. You may need to insulate, especially in cold weather. Search online for one that suits.  Insulated canisters with tap  <https://tinyurl.com/2jmr4mzz>  <https://tinyurl.com/2k3hrtw2>  Spataps are quite remarkable and versatile.  <https://www.spatap.com/collections/shop> |
| Paper towel | * As of Feb 2023, CI do not hold a position on the use of individual washable hand towels but expect infection prevention and control measures in line with Health Protection Scotland guidance. Consideration should be given to emergencies where towels may need to be replaced more frequently. * You will need a bag or somewhere to collect the paper towels | Stick inside a dry bag and fold so that one towel comes out at a time.  Cut a hole in the lid of a plastic box so that one towel comes out at a time.  Go for pump action soap bottle |  |

**Litter and dog mess**

In woods that are used by the public, dog mess and litter may well be encountered. Develop a system for managing this:

* Use a “Crime Scene Investigates” approach to checking an area. Link arms. Look at ground. Take one step at a time to check for dog mess.
* Use tarps or ground sheets for storing bags on and eating snack
* Adult to clear snack and gathering area of dog mess and dangerous litter
* Use cones or brightly coloured tent pegs to mark dog mess elsewhere.
* Litter picking can be a child activity, especially if litter is fresh not manky
* Report fly tipping and littering to your landowner
* Invite dog warden or equivalent to meet children and local dog walkers, if dog mess is a problem. Take a proactive and positive approach to working with dog walkers, signage, involving your children.

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| **Item** | **Advice** | **Skinted** | **Minted** |
| Litter pickers | * Children love using litter pickers. | Some local authorities provide litter picking kits and free dog mess bags.  Ask for donations of charity bags that are posted through letter boxes – these don’t tend to last long  Cosy stock packs <https://tinyurl.com/2ec6hyqm> | Muddy Faces offer the entire range: children’s, skinted and minted <https://tinyurl.com/2f76g83b>  Go biodegradable if possible for dog mess bags |
| Gloves for litter picking | * If using litter pickers, then gloves may not be routinely needed for children. * Have a pair for using with the unpleasant stuff – adults dispose of this * Consider handling and disposal of broken glass | Cosy sell gardening gloves <https://tinyurl.com/2lmp2bb6> | Muddy Faces have a range <https://tinyurl.com/2omon3dl>  Gardening centres |

**Learning and play resources**

* As much as possible, use naturals materials found within your woodland site. Nature is the main resource!
* However, it is important that this is not all take and no give. How can you and the group reciprocate by caring and looking after the woodland?
* Look at the *Leave Less Trace Principles*

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| **Item** | **Advice** | **Skinted** | **Minted** |
| **Magnifying glasses** | * A variety of shapes and sizes is good. Children’s eyes work in different ways. * Fresnel lens are plastic, flexible reading sheets which are also great fun for large scale magnification. | Cosy have a variety of budget magnifiers  <https://tinyurl.com/2eorbodh>  OPAL have mini-Fresnel lens included with their Citizen Science packs. The bugs count survey is doable with young children <https://bit.ly/2GRE9aW>  See if your phone or tablet has a built in magnifying lens or zoom lens in a camera | Specialist ones that tend to be high powered.  Download a magnifying app  Muddy faces have a range including microscopes <https://tinyurl.com/2ppcx68m> |
| **Small plastic mirrors** | * Remind children never to observe the sun or to flash the sun’s reflection at another child’s face. * Great for exploring and sensory activities outside. Introduction to symmetry * Can cut off corners if you feel they are too pointy | TTS sell a wide range including acrylic mirrors, handheld, shaped <https://tinyurl.com/2qcg5asy>  Raid the cupboard. Often there’s old ones hanging around not being used. | Cosmetic mirrors, although made of glass often are magnified and therefore add interest.  Dental mirrors are also useful for exploring, e.g. underside of a mushroom  Shaped mirrors <https://www.cosydirect.com/shape-mirrors-54433> |
| **Pale or white coloured squares of material** | * This can be an old cot sheet. * Natural materials can be more easily seen on a pale background. * Great for pattern work, games and activities. | Use an old sheet.  Cut up a big one into square metre to integrate maths.  Flat cot sheets are also a good size | Buy calico cotton from Cosy, Muddy Faces, John Lewis haberdashery or other sewing shop. |
| **Bug boxes with lids** | * Great for observing bugs. Some have built in magnifiers. * Simple pots with breathing holes in the lid work well too. Or even a plastic cup. * Useful for storing found treasures | Raid old cupboards  Create from transparent plastic tubs. Add breathing holes by heating a needle with a match and piercing the lid lots of times. | Most educational suppliers have bug boxes |
| **Tarpaulin and other quick dry material** | * For den building, role play, group games * Other lightweight quick dry material can be useful. | See comments and links in the shelter section  Raid a lost cupboard or shed  Ask families for donations and see what you get given | See comments and links in the shelter section  Haberdashery shops  Most educational suppliers |
| **Den building materials** | * High vis guy ropes, pegs, Velcro, etc. for use with tarps. * Wooden clothes pegs | See comments and links in the shelter section | See comments and links in the shelter section |
| **String and rope** | * Useful for various jobs, artwork, pulleys, etc. | Raid a lost cupboard or shed  Ask families for donations and see what you get given | Local ironmongers |
| **Dry bags** | * Useful for hanging up gear in wet weather and keeping kit dry. * Translucent ones enable gear to be seen. | Lomo <https://bit.ly/2tnyWQv>  Translucent 3l bags <https://bit.ly/2GvDAEF>  Tesco sometimes stock cheap coloured bags  Go Muddy Faces if you are tied to a finance system. | Sports Direct sell high quality at a reduced price <https://bit.ly/2SGwIdO>  Outdoor shops |
| **Nature ID materials** | * Have an array that match the interests of your group, the habitats you have and the seasons. * Bird apps also have the calling sounds which some children find interesting | Look out for free posters and booklets with magazines or that charities produce  OPAL have various <https://bit.ly/2DM3Tmg> | Field Study Council Guides <https://tinyurl.com/2f6qel3d>  Books, e.g. Collins series  Children’s I-Spy books  Nature apps to download |
| **Lead stick** | * 1m with markings for measurement as well as leading | Cut your own with landowner’s permission from a hazel or other hardwood coppice | Buy a broom handle or measuring sticks  Cosy <https://tinyurl.com/2hj84y5c>  Muddy Faces <https://tinyurl.com/2n6ekzmr> |
| **Soft toy or puppet** | * For songs, games, stories and role play – use Scottish wildlife or fantasy character if possible. * Avoid gender specific names * Having a puppet or soft toy in your pocket can be a really useful aid when preparing to go | Ask for donations  Find one from your childhood collection  Charity shop  Make your own from spare socks and gloves  Add markings to waterproof children’s gloves with a permanent pen (only on gloves that belong to your setting) | Living nature toys – found in many shops, catalogues etc <http://www.living-nature.co.uk>  Buy from educational supplies |
| **Small clipboards (A5 or A6) and pencils** | * They are more portable than standard A4 ones. * Important for messages of all sorts * Pencil: thick triangular type: less likely to break or need sharpening. Pencil will write in the damp | Cut out from brown boxboard to A5 size.  Double up and hold in place with elastic bands.  Add kitchen roll to become a leaf and flower press  Use scraps of card or recycled notebooks made from A4 paper for writing. | Cosy pack of mini clip boards <https://tinyurl.com/2ouxooo4> |
| **Digital cameras or tablets** | * Show children how to use them properly and let them take photos or use relevant apps suitable for use outdoors. * Ensure they have robust and reasonably waterproof covers | Donated, 2nd hand versions |  |
| **Hammock** | * For rocking, resting and enjoying movement. * Consider learning to tie quick release knots, most knots become very hard to untie after they have been pulled tight by hammock swinging | Nature Fun hammock comes with straps and carabiner <https://tinyurl.com/2ozsyetg> | There are loads of designs and types out there!  DD Scout Hammock via Muddy Faces  <https://tinyurl.com/2qxsgoaq>  There are other varieties but not all are suitable for little children |
| **Hammock accessories** | * To protect the tree bark * For putting up and taking down hammocks quickly and with ease | Wrap scarves around trees  DD Whoopie slings – Muddy Faces <https://tinyurl.com/2luuvorv> | Tree huggers – Muddy Faces <https://tinyurl.com/2hffd2v5>  Amazona micro ropes <https://bit.ly/2NckrI6> |
| **Trowel** | * For digging. Some children like to dig holes or look for things under the surface. * Remember to fill in the holes afterwards. | See comments about trowels in toilet section | See comments about trowels in toilet section |
| **Pocket maths resources** | * One or two tools can lift the learning * If you have a rope that you bring along, put 1m tags along it so it can be used for giant measuring. | Raid an old cupboard of maths resources  DIY pocket ideas: <https://bit.ly/2V6MMmb> | Don’t bother searching! |
| **Mini reading books, poems and stories** | * Little travel size books are good for cosy reads in the wood. * Books created about the children’s adventures are also popular | Download free story making apps for your tablet  OWLS Scotland Tree Stories <https://owlscotland.org/find-a-resource/> | Download paid for story-making apps such as Pictello.  Tales in Your Pocket by Grace Banks <https://bit.ly/2GvkQVJ> |
| **Nature Play Ideas** | * Lots of ideas online. Remember to follow children’s lead. * Play is the purpose of the woodland sessions * Any adult-led activities should be opt-in | Books to complement nature play <https://bit.ly/2THUUfJ> | Books about playing in nature. Muddy Faces stock the lot.  <https://muddyfaces.co.uk/shop/books-identification> |