

Who is the training suitable for?

People who have an interest in the outdoors and working with people. Many of our participants work in schools or nurseries – as teachers, early years practitioners or Learning Support Assistants. Others come from an environmental education path.

As more people become interested in nature a wider variety of people have come along to complete their Forest school training.

Some people are looking for a change in their career and are keen to be working outdoors after school, at weekends, with bushcraft groups or the scouting movement.

FOR LEVEL 3 you must be over 21 years of age and have experience of working with children. Ideally you will already have a level 2 or 3 in childcare/training.

It is much easier if people are able to cope with whatever the weather is and are moderately fit (there's a bit of running, hiding and climbing)

What is the workload like?

The whole course takes between 9 and 18 months to complete.

Over that time you practise and write up the skills you learn on the course; write your professional policies, procedures and risk assessments; engage in some research into the history of Forest School, explore education theory and learn about how to work sustainably in your outdoor space.

L2 will have to assist at a Forest school.

L3 will have to run the first 6 weeks of an ongoing Forest School project.

What support can I expect from Under the Hazels?

We understand that people have busy lives!

All the work to be handed in is carefully scaffolded in a series of workbooks and much of the content is taught on the course.

There is a clear hand in schedule, and we can be flexible- matching the level of support with your needs.

Hand in can be in a variety of styles- photographs, recordings and drawings as well as the written word.

We are very friendly and can be contacted in a variety of ways throughout the training right up until complete your hand in.

What happens during the training?

Everything happens outside- unless there are very high winds.

The training runs in a flow model of learning, which means that whilst we meet all the learning outcomes we might spend a little more time on something the group is interested in.

Everyday has a similar routine- a mixture of practical skills, learning theories and crafting.

You will take part in a wide variety of practical tasks to hone your Forest School expertise: how to work with sharp tools; how to light a fire when it's raining; how and when to put up a rope swing; how to take risks and stay safe, and how to see the learning going on when children are playing.

We also look at how to connect with nature, how to play and how being outdoors can increase your overall sense of well being.

Are there funded places?

YES!

Anyone who lives in Cambridgeshire is able to access funding. There is a question on the application form, if you answer yes to 'do you want to apply for funding?' you will be contacted by Kelly Saunders from CCC.

And NO

We don't currently have any funding from other counties.

We are able to offer instalment payments in some cases. Please contact carol@underthehazels.org for more information.

I already have the Forest School Assistant (L2) qualification, can I use this learning towards a L3 qualification?

Yes – it is possible for practitioners with an existing L2 Forest School qualification to complete a 5 day “top up” course to obtain the L3 Forest School Leaders qualification. If this is of interest to you please contact Carol@Underthehazels.org

I already have paediatric first aid, do I need another first aid qualification?

Yes, to maintain the quality standard of Forest Schools you need a specific OUTDOOR first aid qualification.

Your first aid course will be arranged for you by ourselves or our hosts.

What shall I wear? What do I need to bring to the training?

You need to wear clothes that are suitable for the weather. Layers are best because the weather can easily change during a whole day.

Most people find it is colder than they think- even in summer as we will mainly be under the tree canopy.

Good waterproofs are advised, including trousers and shoes. Wellies are unsuitable as , although they are waterproof, they are very cold.

You will need a folding CHAIR to sit on and lots of food, snacks and drinks to keep you going- beyond that we will provide all the kit you need for the course.