

Outdoor home learning challenge

Week beginning 22nd June 2020

Outdoor learning is not as simple as just being outside, though. Whilst the fresh air and physical movement have fantastic benefits to physical and mental health, it is the teacher's change in mindset and approach that have the greatest effect on pupil learning and behaviour. The idea that children should be sat and talked at is as outdated as it is ineffective, and it is little wonder that such approaches lead to pupils struggling to focus. Granting pupils, the freedom to control the pace and route of their learning leads us down paths we would not have found ourselves, ultimately leading to a deeper learning experience for teacher and pupil.

'When you are
curious you find lots
of interesting things
to do'
Walt Disney

Go for a walk or do this in your own back garden. If you live in a flat, then work out a local green space that you know will not be busy. Do some research - join your local Facebook group and ask for hints and tips. This will take some of the anxiety away.

- While you're out, do some quick maths and ask your child to collect you four rocks, two rocks, ten rocks . Check how many they have brought you and help them if they're not right to get it right. Ask questions like 'What if I took one away, how many would I have now?, If I asked you to get two more how many would I have altogether?'
- Make the counting physical too and ask your child to run and collect the rocks rather than walking or change it each time to jumping, hopping, skipping.
- Another physical way of counting could be to ask your child to collect the rocks then to line them up with spaces in between so that they then have to jump over the rocks while they count them. Do not forget to go backwards and count backwards too!