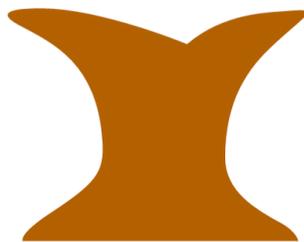




CHAPTER ONE

TREETOPS

OUTDOOR EDUCATION



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A Place To Learn, Play and Grow





"Imagine a place where the carpet changes every day, the ceiling is a wealth of different colours, light, shadow and movement. The feelings and movement completely surround you, sometimes breezy, sometimes cold, others warm. Unexpected wonders fly by, sometimes full of colour and sometimes full of noise and movement. If we really want children to thrive, we need to let their connection to nature nurture them."

Treetops Outdoor Nursery offers the best of all worlds, to allow children the opportunity to build great childhood memories, a gently challenging outdoor investigation zone which supports young children to develop emotional confidence and skills, then the woodlands where they can feel the freedom of a fully natural environment.

Children from the age of three years spend the majority of the day outdoors in all weathers within the beautiful woodland near to the main nursery. We have a designated base camp for den building, tree climbing, woodwork and fire pit. This camp provides the children with a beautiful location to explore the best nature has to offer.





Treetops aims to...

- Provide a safe and stimulating environment in which children can feel happy and secure.
- Provide children with a very natural environment for learning and where they are encouraged and supported to take risks and become the risk assessors.
- Encourage the emotional, social, physical, creative and intellectual development of children.
- Promote the welfare of children and encourage their independence through the use of appropriate praise and reassurance.
- Encourage positive attitudes to self and others, develop confidence and self-esteem.
- Create opportunities for both indoor and outdoor play which, at times, is challenging both physically and mentally.
- Encourage children to explore, appreciate and respect their environment.
- Provide opportunities to stimulate interest and imagination.
- Extend children's abilities to communicate ideas and feelings in a variety of ways.
- Promote a close relationship with parents, staff teams, children and the community.





A typical day at Treetops

The children arrive at the main nursery between 7.30am and 8.30am. Whilst waiting for the rest of their friends to arrive, our staff chat with the children about how they would like to spend their day in the woods.

When all the children have arrived for the day we make our way to base camp. On arrival at the camp, staff carry out a risk assessment and the children are encouraged to participate to help identify any risks in the area.

Staff set up and prepare the camp with equipment.

Children lead their own learning with close supervision as the children engage with nature and the environment in the way in which they have chosen. Children direct their own learning. Adult interaction is well measured to provide support to assist children's learning.

After lunch the children decide whether they want to continue to play and learn in camp or perhaps go on an adventure/nature walk. Some like to enjoy a story after lunchtime or relax in a hammock!

The children have afternoon snack and then choose their own activities until it is time to start packing up the camp, to return to the main nursery.

Back at the main nursery, children are responsible for getting out of their outdoor clothing and ensure that all their belongings are stored safely.





Staff then chat with the children in their groups and record their experiences using big books. This helps children to reflect on their learning. This consultation provides information which can contribute to further planning.

Staff provide verbal feedback to parents/carers at the end of each day.

Each child's learning and progress is recorded within their online Learning Journal. Parents/carers can find information about our planning for the Early Years Foundation Stage via our big book which is updated daily during our adventures and via our closed Facebook group.





Parent Partnerships

Parents are informed of activities daily with verbal feedback and within the Treetops Facebook group.

The link between the family and the nursery is of vital importance for your child's progress. Parents know their child best and so communication between parents and staff is crucial. Care is taken to involve parents/carers in all aspects of children's progress through:

- Being encouraged to look at displays of children's work
- Recording children's group learning
- Contributing items for craft and topic work
- Being encouraged to visit Treetops
- Parents evenings



Find us on social media



NDNA*
Member of
National Day Nurseries Association





The Curriculum

Our curriculum is nature based and will follow the 'Early Years Foundation Stage'

The majority of our learning takes place outside where children can explore the concepts and achieve the expected outcomes in a very practical, sensorial, active and contextual manner. Our highly consultative environment encourages children to explore curricular concepts using higher order thinking, problem solving, self risk assessing and complex language.

Collecting wood for the fire involves estimation, measuring, sorting by complex criteria, science, keeping safe, sharing, taking turns, developing manual dexterity, discussion, etc. Physical development of both gross motor and fine motor control is naturally encouraged in this environment. The skill of our practitioners lies in identifying the learning and giving the necessary support and guidance.





Opening hours - Treetops is open 51 weeks of the year closing on Bank holidays and in-between Christmas and New Year.

Monday to Thursday 7.30 am to 6.00 pm.

Split placements are available offering the opportunity to take daily places within the outdoor nursery and half day or full day places within The Oaks room in our main nursery.

Other nursery locations are:-

Chapter One Childcare—Kirk Brae EH16 6HT

Chapter One Childcare—The Country Park EH22 2NA

Chapter One Childcare—Shawfair House, Midlothian EH22 1RS

Chapter One Childcare—Treetops Outdoor Nursery, Dalkeith Country Park EH22 2NA





Other Information

Admission policy - Due to the expected demand for places, applications are placed on a waiting list.

Fees – £53.04 per day (includes snacks and lunch) payable monthly in advance— collection of fees by direct debit, childcare vouchers or Tax free childcare.

We work in partnership with North Yorkshire County Council to provide Pre-school Funded Places

Registration fee of £75.00 payable upon application, which includes the following starter kit:-

High quality waterproof jacket and trousers

A drawstring bag

CHAPTER ONE
TREETOPS
OUTDOOR EDUCATION



More Information

Manager - Sarah Fozzard

Email: farnley@chapteronechildcare.com

Telephone: 01943 461161

Address: Treetops Outdoor Nursery

Chapter One Childcare

Farnley Lane

Farnley

LS21 2QJ

Chapter One Childcare - Head office

The Country Park Nursery

Dalkeith Country Park

Dalkeith

Midlothian

EH22 2NA



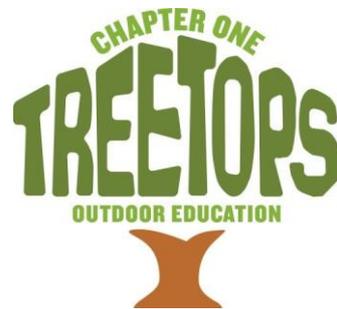


Arrangements for a visit

We encourage parents and children to visit the camp, to experience the quality environment and see the children engaged in their learning and meet our highly qualified outdoor practitioners.

How to make an enquiry

Please email:
farnley@chapteronechildcare.com



(Please note, paper application forms are available on request)

Once an application has been received we will send written confirmation.

We look forward to hearing from you and welcoming your child to this exceptional and exciting learning journey within nature!

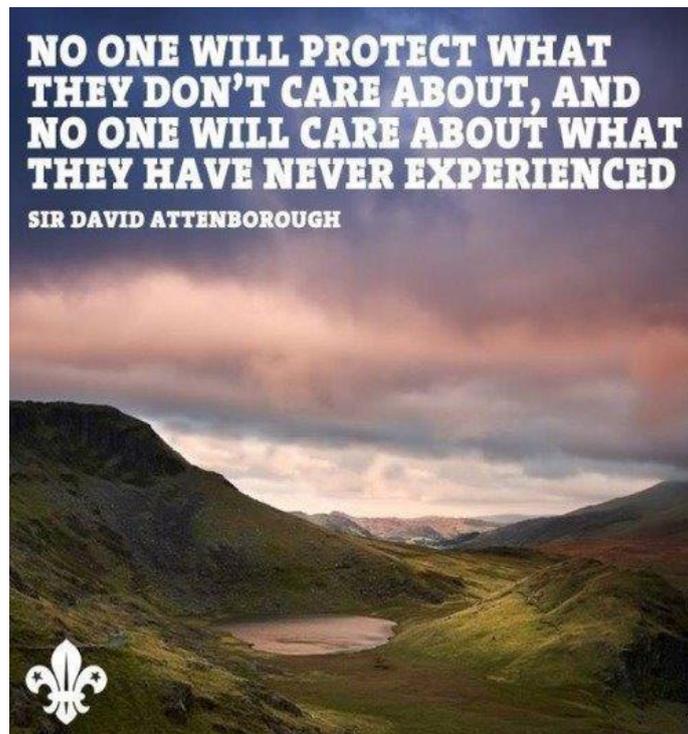




Clear benefits - Our children of today are becoming more and more distant to nature. By the very nature of this technological age our children are spending less time outdoors. How can children then learn to love and respect something that they have little or no relationship with?

I would definitely say this is another clear benefit of outdoor play – with less reliance on technology and “things” to entertain them, they play and entertain themselves. They learn to use their imagination more, developing their thinking.

'There are a number of references to exploring the outdoor environment. 'And there is clearly going to be a great deal more expectancy about what is possible.'





"The best classroom and the richest cupboard is roofed only by the sky." Our Staff Team—Outdoor Practitioners

We understand the importance of having the right teams doing the right jobs! Our commitment is to offer the best and up to date training which enables us to deliver excellent care and learning opportunities.

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to recruitment. The process must be tailored to the type of childcare and environment.

Our staff have been carefully selected and have a range of outdoor experiences in learning and are highly qualified practitioners.



Shaun Myers

Senior Outdoor Practitioner



Beth Ellison

Outdoor Practitioner





My name is Shaun and I am the Senior Early Years Practitioner taking a lead role in Chapter One Outdoor Nursery – Treetops.

I have been working with children since leaving school in 2005 and in particular have a passion for working with pre-school groups.

I hold an NVQ level 3 in Early Years Childcare and during my time have undertaken various training courses to enhance my knowledge for both indoor and outdoor learning. During my time working with other childcare professionals, I have gathered

invaluable knowledge and expertise, which helps makes my teaching that little bit different.

Early years education creates a strong foundation for future learning, and we must recognise the importance of early childhood and how it makes an impact on those we care for. It is also important that we recognise and work with each child as an individual, giving them all the wonderful and important experiences they deserve.

I have always had a passion for the great outdoors and can acknowledge and understand the benefits it brings to a child's wellbeing.

Like everyone, I have spent my lifetime gathering many amazing memories and exploring the environment and world around me. My fondest memories, like for many of us when reflecting, is the fun I had outdoors and the endless number of learning opportunities I experienced was phenomenal. I believe this is something that never stops.

Every day, the beautiful wildlife, the everchanging environment and nature around us, amazes me and I am lucky enough to be able to share this with the children at Treetops, where we nurture with nature.

With the passion I have working in early years and outdoor education, I believe that the children I work with and care for, will have the best possible start in life. All children will have the opportunity to individually learn to their best ability without even knowing it.

Treetops will help to build confident individuals in a magical setting. Children cannot bounce of the walls if the walls are taken away.

Come and meet us at Treetops and let us show you our truly amazing, outdoor classroom.

Shaun



Frequently asked questions

Do we go out in all weathers?

Yes. The only weather that would stop us going into the woods would be high winds because of the danger of the falling branches, however we would have use of the nursery grounds. In the very cold weather the children will be dressed appropriately, and activities would be adapted accordingly.

Will there be a shelter on site?

We have a large cabin which provides shelter, but we also like to make shelters/dens using a variety of resources

What is the adult child ratio?

We have a higher staff ratio of 1:6 compared to indoors, which have a 1:8 ratio for 3-5year olds.

Can my child attend full time/part-time?

Full days are recommended, however a limited amount of morning and afternoon sessions are available.

The majority of our children will attend the nursery between one and three days per week. Some do not require additional childcare on the other days, whilst others also attend our main nursery or childminders. Often children 'drop' a day or two at their existing setting in order to gain from the huge benefits that true outdoor learning has to offer.



Frequently asked questions continued....

What should my child wear?

See attached requirement sheet

What do you do if it rains, snows, etc?

We play and embrace the conditions. Remaining warm and dry are the most important elements to happy creative children in all weathers. We encourage you as adults to remain as positive as possible in front of children as negativity will often rub off on them. We turn rainy days into puddle splashing days, we talk about plants and crops needing drinks and of course snow, and the enjoyment of sledging and building a snowman family.

And there's always that good old saying..... There's no such thing as bad weather just bad clothing and attitude!

What do you do in winter with the dark mornings/nights?

We will use the indoor space in the main nursery until the sun rises and when the sun falls early evening.

What if my child needs a rest?

We understand the demands of being outdoors all day and how active the children are by climbing trees, running around and being in the fresh air so we understand the importance of proper rest during the day. There are natural breaks in the day when they can sit and chat, relax or chill with a story book. We also have pop up tents for colder weather and naps.

How do you promote personal hygiene?

We have a water dispenser and hand soap so children can wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet.



More frequently asked questions....

What will my child have to eat and drink during the day?

The Treetops children will have the same meals as the main nursery, prepared in the kitchen. Lunch and afternoon snack will be brought into the woods for the group and they will eat their meals in the camp. Drinking water will be available all day for the children to access freely.

Do the children need to be toilet trained?

We do advise that due to the nature of the experience that Treetops provides we do prefer children to be toilet trained, we do have a toilet tent to encourage independence and facilities when children need changing, but for the child's needs it is better that they are trained. It will be at the managers discretion if a child can attend camp if the child is not toilet trained.

Are the staff qualified in First Aid?

Our staff will receive Outdoor First Aid Training in addition to paediatric first aid

Are there funded places available?

Yes. We work in partnership with North Yorkshire County Council to offer the 15 and 30 hours of pre-school funding. This will work on the same basis as children attending sessions in The Oaks and funding can be split between both.

Do you accept childcare vouchers?

Yes, we accept all types of childcare vouchers and Tax-Free Childcare



More frequently asked questions....

Will my child get more illnesses by being outdoors all day?

Research shows that's spending more time outdoors is good for both your immune system and mental health.

Can my child have a place in Treetops in the warmer months and move back indoors when it is cold or if they are not feeling well?

Once your child has completed trial days and you have accepted a place in Treetops, your child's place for that session/day will be in Treetops. If you decide at a later date that you would like your child to move back to The Oaks, they will need to go on the waiting list.

If you feel your child is too unwell to fully participate in the activities in Treetops, you should keep them at home until they have recovered, the same as if they were in The Oaks.

Are you monitored by Ofsted?

Yes, our service will be inspected by Ofsted - who are the official body responsible for inspecting standards of care and education - at the same time as the main nursery.

All reports will be published and can be viewed on the Ofsted website.

Our Ofsted registration number is **400086**

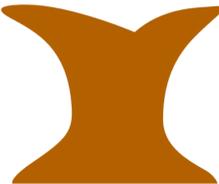




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TREETOPS

OUTDOOR EDUCATION



“We can never truly know what it is like to bite into a ripe juicy peach until we have actually taken the bite for ourselves. Similarly, what do the concepts cool and smooth, prickly and rough actually mean unless we have caressed a pebble, picked up a pinecone or fingered the bark of a gnarled tree?”

(Goldschmied, 1990)

