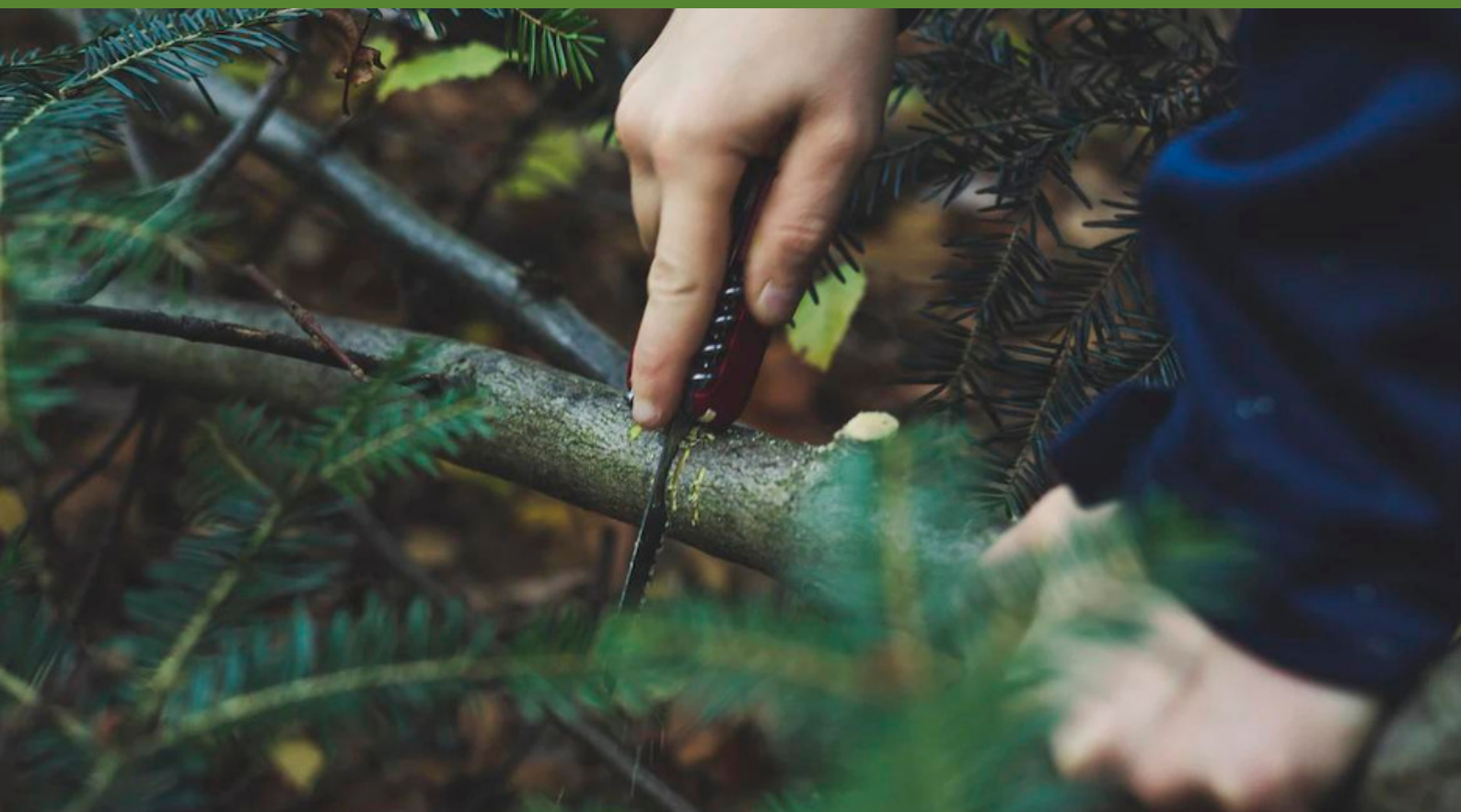


BRANCHES OUT PARENT HANDBOOK



A guide to your child's time at Branches Out
Forest School

www.branchesoutforestschool.co.uk

07539037015

WELCOME TO THE OUTDOORS



Our ethos involves spending as much time as possible outdoors, discovering our world and learning through exploring. We are a nature play based setting, meaning we follow children's lead and provide resources to allow them to move and play at their own pace. We practice unconditional love, meaning we validate their thoughts and feelings without any question.

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION



- Age - 2-5 (Kindergarten) and 5-11 (Clubs)
- Time - 08:30-16:30, extra hours available on request
- Days - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
- Dates - Open year round apart from for 1 week at Christmas, 1 week at Easter, and 4 weeks at Summer (Glos school holidays)

I am a level 3 Forest School leader and Ofsted registered childminder (2684013). I am fully insured and work from a 17 acre farm with plenty of space to explore and learn. We have a gentle stream, woodland glade, fruit trees and rolling hills surrounding our Yurt base, plus chickens, horses, a gentle collie dog and lots of wildlife on the land.



DAILY FLOW

- 08:30 ARRIVAL**  DROP OFF AT THE HOUSE, CHECK IN WITH PARENTS, WALK TO BASE CAMP
- 08:45 OPENING CIRCLE** MORNING CHECK IN AND SHORT WELL-BEING ACTIVITY SUCH AS MINDFULNESS OR YOGA
- 09:00 PLAY**  ACTIVITIES AND PLAY BASED AROUND CHILDREN'S INTERESTS (SEE CURRICULUM)
- 10:00 SNACK**  HEALTHY MID MORNING SNACK AS A GROUP (SEE FOOD)
- 10:15 PLAY**  ACTIVITIES AND PLAY BASED AROUND CHILDREN'S INTERESTS (SEE CURRICULUM)
- 11:45 STORY**  GROUP STORY TIME THEMED AROUND CURRENT TOPICS AND INTERESTS
- 12:00 LUNCH**  HEALTHY HOME PREPARED LUNCH AS A GROUP (SEE FOOD)
- 12:30 REST**  NAP TIME OR REST TIME FOR NON-NAPPERS (STORIES AND CRAFTS OFFERED)
- 14:00 SNACK**  HEALTHY SNACK OFFERED AS GROUP WAKES UP (SEE FOOD)
- 14:15 MUSIC**  GROUP MUSIC TIME INCLUDING ALL THE BELLS AND WHISTLES
- 14:30 PLAY**  ACTIVITIES AND PLAY BASED AROUND CHILDREN'S INTERESTS (SEE CURRICULUM)
- 16:00 CLOSING CIRCLE** AFTERNOON CHECK OUT AND REVIEW OF OUR DAY
- 16:30 DEPARTURE**  COLLECTION FROM THE HOUSE, HANDOVER WITH PARENTS

FOOD

Food is included in the package at Forest School. We cater for all diets including gluten free, dairy free and veggie/vegan. Please let us know full dietary requirements/preferences during your sign up. A sample daily meal plan is below.

- Morning snack - natural yoghurt and berries
- Lunch - roasted red pepper and tomato pasta bake with cheese and green beans
- Afternoon snack - hummus and oat cakes

Food is always home prepared and we often forage from what's growing around us or use ingredients to cook together on the campfire.



OUR CURRICULUM



EYFS

We follow the EYFS framework, tracking progress in communication and language, physical development, personal social and emotional development, literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design



Forest School

Forest School encourages children to learn through experimenting with challenging activities. Risky play develops confidence, awareness and self esteem whilst children learn to collaborate and communicate with others.



Kit List

Hot: spare clothes, long sleeved thin layers, closed toe shoes/wellies, hat, suncream, lightweight coat

Cold: spare clothes, lots of thin layers, coat, waterproof dungarees/onesie, socks, hat, gloves, snow boots



Communication

We communicate with parents through daily handovers with at drop off and also send pictures and daily notes via WhatsApp. We also have policies and procedures for further compliments or complaints.



POLICIES & BEHAVIOUR

We have a number of policies in place to support the wellbeing and inclusion of children at our setting including;

1 Settling

we can work at your pace and always prioritise your child's comfort and confidence

2 Behaviour

we practice unconditional love and validating emotions within challenging behaviour

3 Disability and SEN

we cater for all disabilities and needs and can provide inclusive and adaptive activities

4 Absence and illness

we have fair policies around sickness, isolation, medication, and other absences

Please request full copies of our policies for more information on these topics

COSTS

● Childcare Rates

We charge £60 per full day and £30 per half day per child. These rates include food, nappies, consumables and all activities. Invoices will be sent in advance and payment is requested in advance for the following month.

● Late collection/absence/holiday

Late collection costs £5 per £15 minutes, pay by cash. Child absence is charged at full rate. Childminder illness is not charged and is deducted from the next invoice.

Child holiday is charged at the full rate. Childminder holiday is not charged and 6 weeks notice will be provided.

● Help with paying

We are Ofsted registered and accept the both childcare vouchers and tax-free childcare. We also accept 2, 3 and 4 year old funding although we ask parents to make a voluntary additional contribution of £2.22 (2 year olds) or £3.26 (3-4 year olds) per hour to cover the full costs of our setting.

OUR TEAM



OUR CONTACT



branchesoutforestschool.co.uk



07539037015



branchesoutuk@gmail.com



Stank Farm, Clearwell, GL16 8LD

Parents



Ofsted registers and inspects childcare for children aged from birth to 17 years.

Registered childcare providers and childminders have to meet requirements that relate to welfare and safety, the people providing the care and the organisation of the childcare. Childcarers registered on the Early Years Register, who care for children aged from birth until 31 August following a child's fifth birthday, also have to meet requirements for children's learning and development.

What you can tell us

- Is the childcare good?
- Can it be made better?
- Do you have any concerns?

If you want to tell us anything about your child's childcare, you can ring

0300 123 1231

Or you can write to us at:

enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

Applications, Regulatory and
Contact (ARC) Team
Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester M1 2WD

For more information, search for
'Information for parents Ofsted'

If you would like information about the availability of childcare in your local area, please visit www.familyandchildcaretrust.org