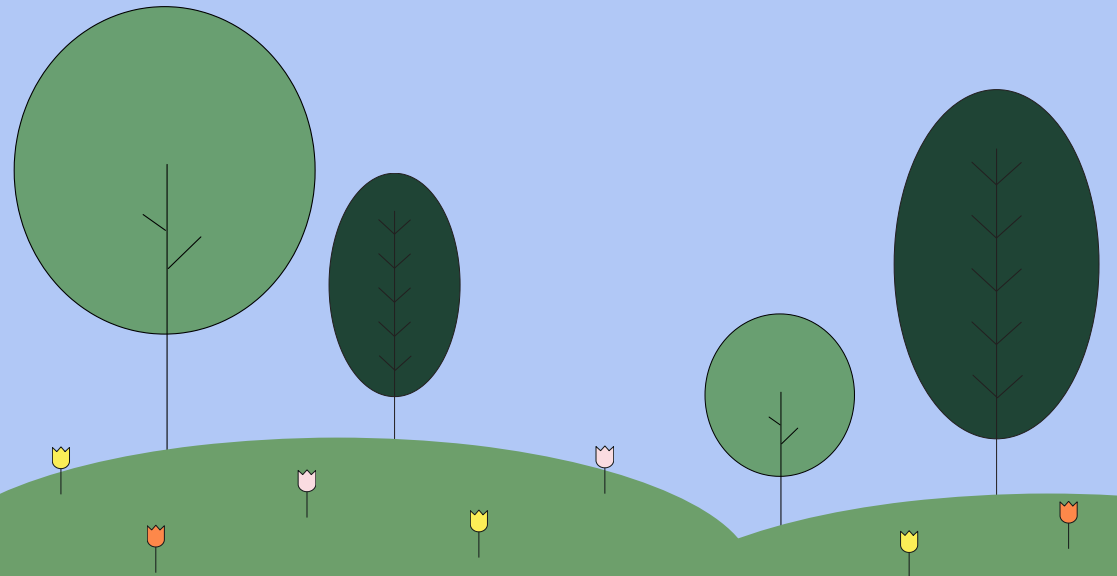
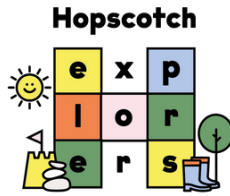





Hopscotch Explorers:


Parent Booklet




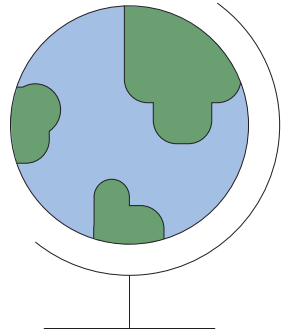


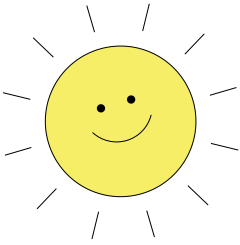
Page Numbers

 Pages 2 - 3: What We Do

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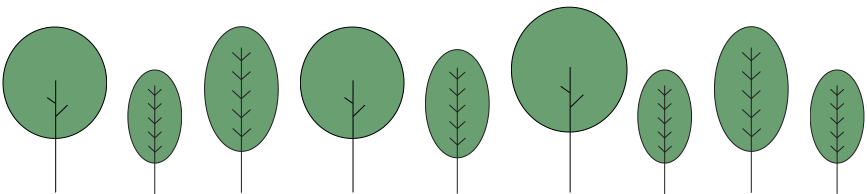
What We Do:

Hopscotch Explorers is Hopscotch's very own Beach and Forest school initiative. We will be taking our pre-school children out weekly to discover the nature that is right on our doorsteps in East and West Sussex.

Our programme will have a specific focus on the natural world and all its inhabitants, and we will be discovering this at beaches, woodland areas, and forests.

At Hopscotch, we encourage learning outside, as this promotes a healthier and more active lifestyle, and allows for our children to explore their creativity.

We also want to promote children to be more confident in themselves and to build up stronger resilience.

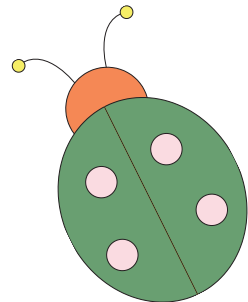




Each of our sessions will focus on a specific activity that has been designed to facilitate children's learning and give them unique opportunities and experiences in our local natural environments.

Our activities have been specially chosen to link to the EYFS Curriculum and make use of these specific areas that children are encouraged to develop.

We also encourage our children to reflect upon what they have learned using nature journals, and encourage our teachers to reflect upon the trip, so that they can refine and improve upon the activities, so that no trip will be like the next.





Why We Do It

It has been proven that there are numerous benefits to Nature school initiative's. At Hopscotch, we want to encourage our children to be explorers of the world and recognise the value of nature and the importance of protecting it.

Our core ethos of Hopscotch Explorers is to promote an awe and wonder of the natural world. We also want to promote our children to have a true respect and a better understanding of nature. We truly believe these cannot be achieved just by working in a classroom.

Each activity that we plan encourages this respect for the natural world. We teach children what they can use from nature and what they should leave alone. But we also encourage children to ask questions about what they have discovered as this way they can gain a better understanding of nature.





It is becoming increasingly clear that we all need to do our part in protecting the environment, and this is what we encourage in Hopscotch Explorers.

An activity that we have for our Beach School initiative is litter picking. The idea being that we teach children to look after the environment and keep our beaches as clean as possible to protect our sea creatures. We are also able to teach children the importance of recycling through this activity.

The EYFS identifies a key feature of learning as 'understanding the world.' This is important as it allows children to expand upon their curiosity of the world and leads them to make brand new observations about the world around them.

At Hopscotch, we want to create calm structured learning environments that nurture academic, social and emotional needs. We believe that these can all be developed through exploration of the world.



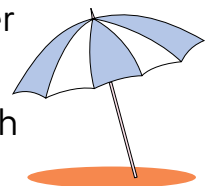


Emotional development is nurtured as we encourage children to take part in activities that require resilience and bring about a true sense of achievement.

During Hopscotch Explorers, our practitioners will allow children to work together to complete tasks and allow them to talk to one another about what they have found and solve problems with the help of others which will nurture their social skills.

A good example of this is den building, as this task demands that children work together and children will achieve a huge sense of achievement once they have created a den for themselves.

We encourage our children to learn through play and develop these holistic skills through interaction with the natural world. If you would like further information on exactly how these skills are developed please read 'A Guide To Hopscotch Explorers.'

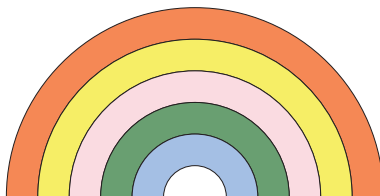


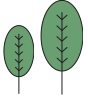


Studies have found numerous physical and mental health benefits when children are exposed to green spaces.

A study found that children who spent longer outdoors were more physically active than those that spent less time outdoors. With these considered it seems clear that there are enormous benefits to nature school initiatives.

This is why at Hopscotch Explorers we take a 'nature active' approach to learning as part of our broader curriculum. We are passionate about introducing children to the natural environment and we want each child to be given the opportunity to learn about the environment that surrounds them.





What To Expect

The Explorers group for the day will leave their nursery and head to the chosen location. The group will always be led by a lead Explorer who has been specifically trained in the curriculum.

On arrival, the Explorers will be read a nature inspired story while enjoying snack. One of the Explorer leaders will prepare the days activities.

For approximately an hour, the children will engage in an activity that has been specifically designed for them. This activity is designed to facilitate their learning, encourage exploration, and help foster a connection with the natural world.

After the activity, the children will spend time winding down with their Hopscotch Explorers nature journals. The journal allows them to capture all of their learning and memories from the day, before returning to nursery.

