

**Context:**

Outdoor learning

Nursery

Age 3-4

Title: Exploring forest school

**Child-led exploration**

After a period of rain, the children explored the forest school area in a variety of ways. For example, some children found that it was more slippery when trying to balance on the logs. Others observed that the mud was squelchy and sticky under foot, leading to stickiness testing on a tree. Whilst others looked for bugs.



Some children estimated how deep puddles were in terms of how long a stick they needed to reach the bottom and ask questions about why it rains lots. ‘*Why do the woods need the rain?*’

**Possible future provision/next steps**

Further opportunities to explore slippery/sticky materials and muddy mark-making. Bug hunts when wet and dry. Exploring and noticing how the environment is very different when dry. Do we still need welly boots? Is there as much mud? Can we make squelchy sounds in the dry?

**Learning outcomes include** (Birth to 5, The World):

Range 4: *Notices detailed features of objects in their environment.*

Range 5: *Shows care and concern for living things and the environment. Comments and asks questions about aspects of their familiar world/natural world. Developing an understanding of growth, decay and changes over time.*

Characteristics of effective learning – Thinking creatively and critically: *Making links and noticing patterns in their experience.*

Example from Noah’s Ark Pre-school, Bristol