

CASE STUDY

Outdoor Learning for Childminders

Emily is a childminder at Emily's Little Adventurers in Bristol. She became a newly established childminder in September 2025 and is committed to continually developing her skills and practice as an early years professional. Exploring the outdoors and learning through play are highly valued and embedded in her setting, so when she saw the opportunity to take part in CPD focused on outdoor learning, she was excited to take up the opportunity. Emily attended the Spring Outdoor Learning Session for Childminders and Children at Ashton Court ran by Jane Gulliver.



What did the session help you reflect upon?

'We had the BEST morning! As a childminder, working long hours, it can be hard to find spare time to take part in CPD offers, so the fact that this

was a session in which we were able to bring our mindees along for the fun was a huge bonus!

The course really made me think more carefully about planning my outings ahead of time, taking more time to consider where we are going and what I may be able to take along with me that would enhance the children's experience.

It made me realise that learning resources for the outdoors, do not require huge budgets, just imagination, knowledge and experience.

Thank you so much for having us and sharing your skills and knowledge with us."



How has the session influenced your practice?

"I came away from the training feeling inspired to enhance my outdoor provision, so I set up an independent 'bug hunt' station in the back garden, this includes magnifying glasses, tiny pots and a pair of gloves.

Through this outdoor learning opportunity my mindees were learning important social and emotional skills such as sharing, turn taking and sharing ideas. It was so lovely to witness their friendship growing stronger as they engrossed in exploration together.

I have also gathered some resources that I keep in the boot of my car, making these readily accessible for outings to the woods and local parks."



What difference has it made to children and families?



"Families of my setting absolutely love hearing all about our outings, I recently handed out some feedback forms for my families to complete to support my Ofsted inspection, our outdoor adventurers and provision came back through as a shining highlight for them.

One of our setting core values is confidence and I am confident that my mindees will leave as really resilient children all thanks to outdoor learning."

Would you like to further explore

- Read this blog about [inspiring nature connections for childminders](#)
- Attend an [upcoming Childminder Network session](#) near you
- [Create your own bug hunt area](#)

