



Sustainability education in the early years

CPD

CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FROM THE START

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Description

Early childhood is the ideal time to establish a foundation of understanding around the environment. Sustainability education is often referred to as Education for Sustainable Development. UNESCO describes this as: 'Education for Sustainable Development allows every human being to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future.' This means weaving key sustainable development issues into practice such as climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable consumption of resources. ESD is all about improving our quality of life now and for the generations to come.

This training sessions will explore what this looks like in early years. We will explore how we can help children form deep and meaningful connections with nature, from embracing all the elements nature affords us such as the wind and rain, observing the incredible beauty, the awe and wonder of nature, learning to care for our natural environment through planting, encouraging biodiversity such as with bug-hotels and ponds, or care for animals such as hens or a rabbit. We will look at developing an understanding of growth and life-cycles, as children being to make sense of their world.

We will explore resources and materials that are themselves more sustainable and have a low or zero carbon footprint. I'll give examples and hands on experience with natural materials that are more sustainable such as clay, charcoal and wood. We will think about ways in which we can embed recycling culture and zero waste into the setting culture, as well as looking at ways in which settings can make larger commitment to the environment thought energy source choice, insulation and furniture and resource selection.

Aims & Objectives

From this course you will:

- Understand the importance of sustainability and the environment
- Examine how the outdoor environment promotes children's health and well-being
- Examine how we can nurture making strong lasting connections with nature
- Learn about key theorists approaches to sustainability and ESD
- See how we can contribute in wide-ranging ways to become more sustainable and environment friendly
- Explore a selection of resources and materials that have low/zero carbon footprint
- Examine examples of stimulating innovative environmental approaches from a variety of countries

Pete Moorhouse is an early years creative consultant. He is an associate trainer for Early Education and a Froebel tutor and has delivered training in many countries. He is the author of several journal articles and books and was awarded an honorary research fellowship at Bristol University, currently researching creative and critical thinking in early years. Pete won the national award from the Creative Learning Guild for his work promoting creativity in education and is Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a Churchill Fellow.

AUDIENCE: EARLY YEARS LEADERS, MANAGERS, TEACHERS & PRACTITIONERS

PETE MOORHOUSE
studio@petemoorhouse.co.uk