

Editorial

Welcome to the Second Edition of NIFSA News – the monthly bulletin to help you deliver outdoor activities.

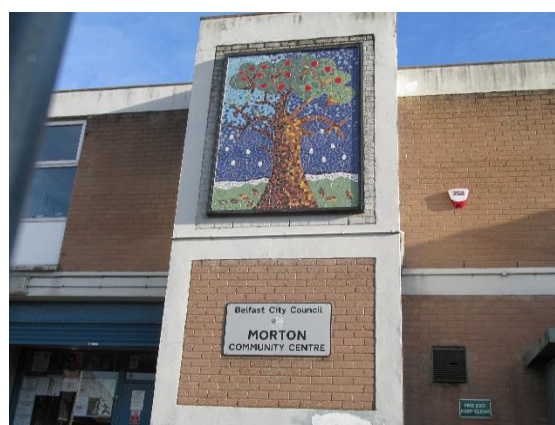
This month has been a busy one. We are supporting Hazelwood Integrated Primary School every Monday. We are currently training the two P6 teachers for their Forest School Leader Level 3 Award and developing a Woodland After-Schools Club run by volunteer parents – Gareth and Stephen.

We are also training our final teacher as part of the Faughan Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme – Jacque Todd, Primary 6 every Tuesday in Cumber Claudy Primary School.



Gareth and Stephen – volunteer Forest School Leaders

Finally, training five volunteers at the Morton Community Centre in Belfast every Wednesday.



Morton Community Centre on the Lisburn Road, Belfast

Focus on Annie Mullan. Qualified as NIFSA Forest School Leader in 2013

Annie Mullan, Community Engagement Officer with Faughan Valley Landscape Partnership. I use Forest School with school groups I bring out to local woodlands and I lead a regular Wildlife Club at Learmount Forest who meet monthly. The club has been going for approximately 6 years and hoping it will continue for many more. It has recently expanded to include a Seniors and juniors section and some of the seniors have been in the club since the start.



They are now completing a John Muir Award which is good progression for older kids to take control of their activities.



Annie showing how to use a Pooter

Resources

Welcome to the Creative STAR website – the digital gateway to the real world developed by Juliet Robertson

<http://creativestarning.co.uk/>



Inside the pages are lots of practical ideas and information about learning and playing outdoors.

Pebble Toss

Create a hole. Each player needs 5 stones. Take it in turns to toss a pebble into the hole. The person with the most stones in the hole wins.

Shades of Grey

How many different colours of rock can you find? Build up a rainbow of rocks, sorted according to colour. Is the colour related to size, hardness or any other property of a pebble?

Trails

Make a trail of stones that lead to something interesting. Put a little treasure or surprise to let others know they've found the spot!

Which Hand?

Hide a pebble in one of your hands. Hold out both fists. Let a friend guess which hand the pebble is in. Take turns and let your friend hide the pebble in one of her hands too. (NB Dogs love this game too when played with a treat they can eat each time).

Stone Stacks

Build a stack of stones. This can be extra interesting if they are built near the sea and the tide comes in around them. Will yours survive?

Returning Rocks

Go for a walk and collect stones. Then go back and try and remember where they all came from.

Make a Miniature Drystone Wall

This is a wall that is made without cement. The stones carefully laid together keep the wall stable. Experiment with small flat stones. Look at brickwork in houses and garden walls to see how which patterns and stone placements make a strong wall. Put those jigsaw skills to work!