

Editorial

A sad month this February. NIFSA finish at Sunshine Nursery in Ballinderry. We started in September and working with Gwen and her team have developed the Gruffalo Wood. The kids and staff love it here.



Above: The kids at Sunshine Nursery in Ballinderry



Above: Everybody boards the "train" in the Gruffalo Wood



Above: Brian getting a farewell cake from staff at Sunshine Nursery. Very tasty cake!

Waringstown Primary School



One of the volunteer parents helping out at Waringstown Primary School

So far the sessions have included map making, animal shelter building and making dens.

Links are put on the website every month featuring their Forest Schools every Monday - <http://www.waringstownps.co.uk/>

Featured website this month –

The Somerset Natural Learning Academy

Formerly the educational arm of the Glastonbury Trust

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



The Somerset Natural Learning Academy has been set up to promote well-being through outdoor learning.

We believe that people are happier, healthier and better integrated through simple, everyday contact with nature.

We have a particular interest in encouraging the use of labyrinths for education, spiritual growth and community cohesion.

8. Making a Mini – Worm Farm

Year 2 to 6

Aim. To find out about the functions of earthworms relative to the ecology of soil. To find out about the diet and behaviour of earthworms.

In Brief. Children go on a worm hunt in specific environments and make observations about their findings. Children begin work on a worm farm.

Main Activities.

1. **Warm Up.** Birds and Worms Game – can the birds pull the worm out of the whole (birds versus worms tug-of-war)
2. **Stages for Worm Hunt.**
3. Children are given a selected area within the Forest School Area to search for worms.
4. They are instructed to work with care in their worm hunt, turning over stones, logs, vegetation and careful digging, safeguarding worms. Found worms are stored in the containers provided.
5. Worms from each area are counted and checked for size.
6. Sharing information and conclusions based on finds.
7. Parts of the worm – describe what they see.

8. Easter Garden

9. **Years 1 to 3**



Aim. To celebrate Easter with a traditional Easter Activity.

In Brief. Children make an Easter Garden in the side of the mound facing the labyrinth. Children make mini- Easter Gardens to take home.

1. **KS1 – Design & Technology.**

Children gain insight into a basic production process where a series of pre-defined stages are followed to complete a product.

<http://snla.co.uk/blog/forest-school-school-based-resources-for-ks1-and-ks2-10-free-lesson-plans/>