

Suggested Books for Forest School

Included are suggestions concerning what age groups these books might appeal to and a star rating system, as follows: * not really worth the effort, **a reasonably enjoyable story, *** a good book to share with children, ****excellent reading. BB indicates if the story is available in Big Book format.

Spots Walk in the Woods ***

Eric Hill

ISBN 0-140-55274-X

Walker Books

Suitable for 3-5 yr olds

Spot, with his friendly classmates and teacher travel by bus to the woods where they explore together.

Links: **introducing the idea of travelling on a bus and Forest School**

The Magic Forest **

By Peter Kavanagh

ISBN 0-590-54341-5

Suitable for 5-6 yr olds

A child goes for a walk in a forest with his parents and discovers a variety of creatures and imaginary characters that help show him the way home when lost. This story includes witches, wolves and bears.

Links: laying a route, imaginary woodland characters.

Follow My Leader****

Emma Chichester Clark

ISBN 0-00-664760-X

Suitable for 3-6 yr olds

A little boy leads a group of animals through the countryside to a wood where they encounter a tiger who takes over a their leader.

Links: Follow My Leader game through the wood.

Little Rabbit Foo Foo ****

Michael Rosen

ISBN 0-7445-6945-1

Suitable for 3-6 yr olds

Rabbit Foo Foo is a comical character that treats the forest animals unkindly and gets turned into a goonie by the Good Fairy.

Links: how to treat animals in the wood.

Alone in the Woods**

Ian Beck

ISBN 0-439-99898-0

Suitable for 4-6 yr olds

Teddy is taken on a picnic but gets carried away by a kite into the woods where he finds a huge teddy bear's picnic taking place.

Links: 'If you go down to the woods today' song, making kites.

Percy's Friends***

Nick Butterworth

Suitable for 5-6 yr olds

A series of books that enables children to find out where animals play, the things they like and the things they don't, with some funny moments captured on Percy's camera. Animals include the owl, the hedgehog, the fox, the squirrel, the rabbit and the badger.

Links: how woodland creatures live.

Also **Percy the Park Keeper – Everyone's Friend** ISBN 0-00-711976-3

Bunny and Bee's Playful Day**

Sam Williams

ISBN 1-84362-034-0

Suitable for 3-5 yr olds

These two characters live in a tree house and enjoy playing outside – whatever the weather.

Links: Hide and Seek, 123 Where are you?, being out of doors.

Owl Babies** (BB)**

Martin Waddell

ISBN 0-7445-6313-5

Suitable for 3-5yr olds

The mother of three baby owls leaves them to hunt and they wonder where she has gone and when she will return.

Links: parental absence, owl habits, being left alone in the woods.

The Grandad Tree****

Trish Cooke

ISBN 0-7445-7875-2

Suitable for 5-6yr olds

Changes in the life of a tree are sensitively used to reflect the life of the children's granddad in whose memory they plant a new tree.

Links: plant growth and life cycles, seasonal change, death and bereavement.

Where's my Teddy *(BB)**

Jez Alborough

ISBN 0-7445-3620-0

Suitable for 3-5yr olds

Eddy's lost his teddy, so he goes off to the woods to find him where he gets a huge fright. This could make some children wary of woods!

Links: favourite toys.

Walking through the Jungle(BB)**

Julie Lacombe

ISBN 0-7445-6326-7

Suitable for 3-5yr olds

A variety of animals are encountered in the jungle – all make their own noises and move in special ways.

Links: animal actions and noises, what animals can be found in particular habitats.

Itchy Bear*(BB)**

Neil Griffiths

ISBN 0-9540 –498-3-7

Suitable for 3-5yr olds

The bear has an aggravating itch, which he tries to cure, but ends up annoying the other woodland animals.

Links: where animals live in the woods.

Quick as a Cricket*(BB)**

Audrey Wood

ISBN 0-85953-331-x

Suitable for 3-5yr olds

This colourful picture book links human emotions and feelings to members of the animal kingdom.

Links: emotions, animals of different habitats, creating poems.

Can't you Sleep Little Bear?**(BB)**

Martin Waddell

ISBN 0-7445-3691-X

Suitable for 4-6yr olds

Little Bear has trouble sleeping because he is afraid of the dark, much to Big Bear's annoyance.

Links: sizes, nighttime, personal fears.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears*(BB)**

Susan Price

ISBN 0-521-66653-8

Suitable for 3-6yr olds

Traditional story.

Links: sizes.

We're Going on a Bear Hunt**(BB)**

Michel Rosen and Helen Oxenbury

ISBN 0-7445-4781-4

Suitable for 3-5yr olds

A family go looking for bears and have to cross some demanding terrain!

Links: sounds, movement.

Dinosaurs and All that Rubbish(BB)**

Micheal Foreman

ISBN 0-582-42092-x

Suitable for 5-6yr olds

Man leaves a polluted earth behind him, which is restored by the dinosaurs, as he travels to a new planet.

Links: pollution, man's impact on the environment.

Window****

Jeannie Baker

Suitable for 3-6 yr olds

A story told through wonderful pictures of how the locality where a child grows up changes over time, becoming increasingly urbanised.

Links: man's impact on the environment, change, growth, comparison of town and country.

Where the Forest Meets the Sea ****

Jeannie Baker

ISBN 0-7445-1305-7

Walker Books

Suitable for 3-6 yr olds

The reflections of a young boy exploring a prehistoric rain forest. With natural material, collage illustrations of the past, present and future.

Links: the importance of our environment, ancient trees, growth, natural and man-made materials.

Deep in a Rainforest*(BB)**

Gwen Pascoe

ISBN 1-86374-094-5

Suitable for 3-5yr olds

Another beautifully illustrated picture book exploring the colours that can be found in a rainforest.

Links: identifying colours in the environment, comparing a rainforest with a wood, creating poems.

The Gruffalo (BB)****

Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler

ISBN 0-333-71093-2

Macmillan

Suitable for 3-6 yr olds

A quick-thinking mouse takes a stroll through a deep dark wood and comes face to face with a fox, an owl, a snake and a hungry gruffalo.

Links: woodland animals, animal predators and their woodland foods.

The Wide Mouthed Frog (Pop-up book)***

Keith Foulkner

ISBN 1-84357-054-8

Suitable for 3-6 yr olds

A humorous tale about a talkative frog who can't stop asking other creatures what they eat until he meets a creature that eats wide mouthed frogs.

Links: talking to peers, animal diets.

If You Give a Moose a Muffin*(BB)**

Laura Joffe Numeroff

ISBN 006-443366-8

Suitable for 4-6yr olds

A child invites a moose into their home to eat a muffin and the animal gets up to some funny antics that are most un-moose-like!

Links: Food, animal habits.

Butterfly Kiss*(BB)**

Vicki Churchill and Charles Fuge

ISBN 0-340-78307-9

Suitable for 4-6yr olds

Ant and caterpillar enjoy eating contests, but Caterpillar always wins. Until the day she becomes a butterfly – and finds her mouth has changed shape. Will she find some food she can eat?

Links: food, change.

Red Bird(BB)**

David Orme

ISBN 0-00-301230-1

Suitable for 3-5yr olds

Red Bird is angry. The only thing he likes to eat are blackberries and someone has taken them all. Who can it be?

Links: food, woodland animals and what they eat .

The First Musician*(BB)**

Amanda Graham

ISBN 1-86374-270-0

Suitable for 3-5yr olds

This book illustrates how music can represent different places and times.

Links: making musical instruments.

The House at Pooh Corner****

A A Milne

Suitable for 3-6 yr olds

Winnie-the-Pooh and Piglet build a shelter in the woods for Eeyore on a cold snowy day. The picture of this basic, tent styled shelter is useful.

Links: shelter building

The Three Little Pigs

Traditional tale

Links: shelter building

Hansel and Grettel and the Sandwich Trail

Traditional tale

Links: Laying and following trails

Tree Folklore and Superstitions

PNL Press

Links: Tree studies

The Aspen Tree story

Links: Tree studies

The Elder Tree story

Links: Tree studies, making jewellery

Bella the Buzzard

Links: Caring for wildlife and the environment, bird studies

Native American Indian Stories