

THE EXPERIENCE, LEARN DEVELOP FRAMEWORK

OUR PRINCIPLES



We are inclusive

We advocate for equitable access to outdoor learning for all young people and aim to create inclusive spaces and communities that foster a culture of equity, diversity, and belonging for all.



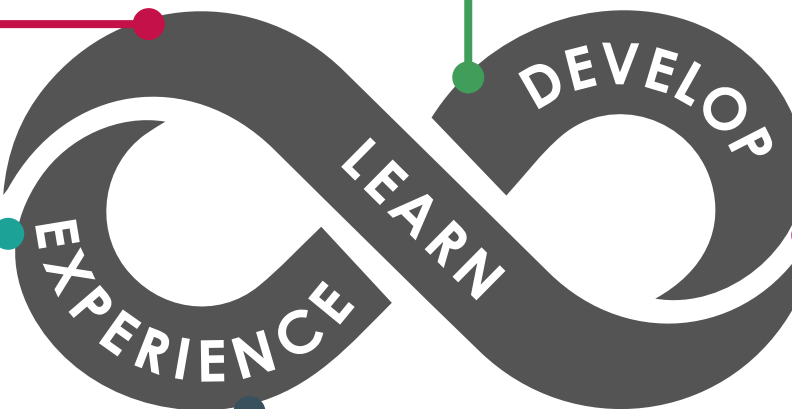
We respect the natural environment

It sits at the heart of outdoor learning, and purposeful outdoor experiences underpin wellbeing and deepen our appreciation and understanding of nature to strengthen our collective responsibility to protect it now and for the future.



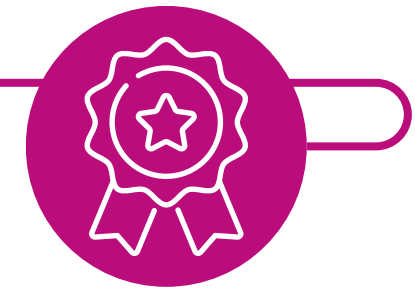
We value the whole experience

Outdoor learning youth work offers a holistic approach, blending the relational, development focus of youth work, with the experiential based approach of outdoor learning. Experience, Learn, Develop describes the importance of the journey not just the destination in understanding what individuals can achieve and reflects our belief that meaningful learning happens beyond the classroom, through exploration, challenge, and discovery.



We value courage and curiosity

Outdoor learning youth work offers supported and safe spaces for young people to build confidence and resilience, to step beyond their comfort zone and explore courage and curiosity.



We strive for excellence

Through high-quality outdoor learning youth work that demonstrates excellent practice, informed knowledge, and a responsive approach by actively listening to our users.

UKY VALUES

Inclusivity

Excellence

Curiosity

Courage

Community

UK YOUTH

OUR APPROACH

IN OUR OUTDOOR LEARNING YOUTH WORK, the practitioner acts as a bridge between structured activity and relational support, creating safe, engaging experiences intentionally linked to developmental outcomes such as resilience, confidence, social connectedness, and overall wellbeing.

Through challenge and support, skilled practitioners enable young people to test, reflect, and grow within trusted relationships. This integrated approach, as promoted by the Experience, Learn, Develop Framework, supports young people's holistic wellbeing by fostering the development of socio-emotional skills that include changes in knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviours. This is demonstrated through the following, not exhaustive, examples.



- Gain new knowledge through inclusive experiences
- Active experiences promote health and wellbeing
- Enjoyment and fun, creating positive memories
- Safe environment, a sense of community
- Broadens knowledge of lived experiences
- Safe spaces for perceived risk
- Independence
- The value of trust and trusted relationships
- Structured responsibility opportunities
- The ethos of 'challenge by choice'



- About ourselves and others
- Empathy and to value and respect differences
- Understand the transferability of learning
- New skills
- Problem solving
- To recognise and celebrate achievement
- About the natural environment and its importance for sustainability and wellbeing
- Interpersonal skills and teamwork
- Emotional management
- Personal goal setting



- Empowerment and initiative
- Educational and life skills
- Character and citizenship
- Social skills and social confidence
- Resilience and responsibility
- Self-confidence to use their own voice, be themselves and make decisions
- An ability to self-evaluate risk
- Friendships, often outside their usual peer group(s)
- Lifelong positive physical literacy
- Courage and Curiosity