



A Tutor's Handbook: Engaging with Nature During Tutor Time

Tutor time is an invaluable opportunity to connect with your tutees and create a sense of community. This page provides guidance and inspiration for incorporating nature into these sessions. Remember, this isn't just a filler activity; it's a chance to build strong relationships, spark creativity, and help your tutees feel more connected to their surroundings at Mount Kelly and beyond.

Key Principles

Nature is always an option. There should never be a time when your tutees are not engaged. If you don't have a planned activity or need to hold one-on-one discussions, use nature as your starting point to keep everyone engaged. It's a great way to occupy the rest of the group while you work individually with a pupil.

Empower your tutees. While there are resources and prompts available, feel empowered to run any activities you wish. The goal is to make tutor time a meaningful and comfortable experience for everyone.

Consistency is key. Every tutor group has an A3 scrapbook. Whether it's a new one or carried over from last year, this is the central hub for your group's nature-based activities. Encourage tutees to fill it with drawings, photos, leaves, written reflections and whatever else they choose.

Activity Ideas and Resources

Here are some ideas and resources to get you started. These are just prompts—feel free to adapt them or come up with your own.

Wonder Walks: A five-minute walk is all it takes to shift a pupil's perspective. Take a 'wonderwalk' down to the river or through the millennium woods. As you walk, ask tutees to focus on their senses. What can they feel, smell, hear, and see? What details do they notice that they normally miss?

Scrapbooking Sessions: The A3 scrapbook is a great way to document your group's journey. Use the activity cards or the provided resources to guide your session. Ideas include:

Drawing: Sketch a leaf, a tree, or the view from a window.

Collections: Glue in small, found objects like a pressed flower, a fallen leaf, or a piece of bark.

Writing: Write a short poem or a reflection on the season, the weather, or a plant you saw.

Photography: Take photos on a wonderwalk and print them to add to the scrapbook.

Mindful Moments: Sometimes, the most powerful nature activity is simply being present. We have mats available if you'd like to lie on the ground and look at the clouds, listen to the wind, or just sit quietly and observe the world around you.

Ouisi Cards: If you're looking for quick inspiration, grab a set of Ouisi cards from the staff room. These provide excellent prompts for creative discussion and reflection.

Art Supplies: We have paint sets available for use. You can paint a landscape, a flower, or an abstract piece inspired by the sounds or feelings of nature.

If you have an idea for a new activity that requires resources, just let me know what you need.

Making Use of Our Spaces

Don't forget to take advantage of the beautiful spaces around us. Take a wander to the Nature Health and Wellbeing Space located above Rossington. It's designed for exactly these kinds of activities. Or make use of the outdoor seating on the flat area above Big School, between Rossington and Marwood. It's a perfect spot for a quick break, a sketchbook session, or a group discussion.

Beyond Tutor Time

Our goal is to integrate nature into all aspects of school life. Please continue to incorporate nature into your teaching wherever you can and share your ideas on the Nature Strategy Sharing chat on Teams. It's always inspiring to see what everyone else is doing.

If you have any questions about these activities, need help finding a specific resource or would like me to come into your tutor time to assist please just get in touch with me.

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