A Changing Perspective on Outdoor Learning
“Children have their own agendas and timescales. As they find out more about their world and their place in it, they work hard not to let adults hurry them.”

*Cathy Nutbrown*
Space

“Outdoors should be a dynamic, flexible and versatile place where children can choose, create, change and be in charge of their play environment.”

Jan White
Materials

“The most effective kind of education is that a child should play amongst lovely things.”

*Plato*
Relationships

“No significant learning occurs without a significant relationship.”

James Comer
Primary Years - Learning Outdoors

The best classroom and the richest cupboard is roofed only by the sky.

Margaret McMillan (c1925)
Curriculum Links
Developing Social Interactions
Looking Closely

The question is not what you look at, but what you see?

Henry David Thoreau
Independence
Commitment
Grade 3 Garden
Reflecting
We should remain humble in the face of children’s extraordinary explorations of life and the possible relations within it.

Enid Elliot
“A half century ago children were given far more responsibility for their own development... The changes we have wrought in childhood in order to protect children from danger constitute a ‘silent emergency’.”

Eric Nelson, Cultivating Outdoor Classrooms
The outdoors is a primary environment for children. But why?
Movement / physical development
Play/Inquiry
A place to socialise
Use imagination
Take initiative
Connect with the natural world
So...

Children’s basic needs for well being and involvement, and their urge to explore and make sense of their world is developed though high quality play/inquiry in an outdoor environment.
What strategies can we use to successfully implement outdoor learning programmes?
Key strategies for outdoor learning

Think about the outdoors as ‘another learning space’
Be aware of what it implies to work in a natural environment
Create in and outdoor flow if possible
Understand the different roles the adult plays while working with children outdoors
Develop your programme (link to overall philosophy of the school and curriculum planning)
Evaluate, design and modify the environment
Re-think risk
Questions