

Nature Tots Forest School at Centre for Wildlife Gardening

Information Pack 2024-25

About Nature Tots Forest School

Nature Tots is a Forest School programme for pre-school children aged 18 months to 5 years. We engage and inspire young people and their carers to connect with nature through hands-on outdoor activities around wildlife.

During Nature Tots, children will explore their natural surroundings, discovering the animals and habitats around them. Activities include minibeast hunting, pond dipping, cooking, stories, music and nature crafts. Nature Tots helps children develop their confidence and emotional well-being, and skills in independent learning, problem solving, working with others and creativity.



Building confidence



Problem solving with others



Family bug hunting



Family pond dipping



Creativity



Up close with nature

Parents/Guardians

Parents and children participate together. All children remain the responsibility of parents and carers throughout the session and must be supervised at all times. Any one adult must be accompanying no more than three children under 5.

Staff

Our staff leading the sessions are all Forest School Level 3 practitioners, are DBS checked and are first aid trained. All our activities are risk assessed, our risk assessment for outdoor learning activities can be found [here](#).

Facilities

There are toilet and baby changing facilities onsite.

Snacks for children are not included but during each session there will be a story and an opportunity for the children to have a drink and snack so you may wish to bring something suitable for your child.

Food may sometimes be provided as part of the Nature Tots activity, please let us know on the booking form if your child has any dietary or allergy requirements. Please also let us know on the booking form if any of the children or accompanying adult have any access needs.

For allergen information: Please note that there are sometimes cats present at the site; in the inside areas there may be traces of peanut. Please ask about any other allergen concerns you have.

What to wear

Children (and adults) should be dressed appropriately for the weather. We go outside come rain or shine. If the weather is heavy rain, cold or windy, we have shelter in the classroom or covered area outside, but we'll still venture outside to explore. We will assess the site and weather conditions each morning, if it is deemed too dangerous (storms or high winds) we will cancel the session, refunds will be paid accordingly, or sessions rescheduled. Children should wear clothes suitable for messy play. It is advisable to bring a change of clothes in case your child gets wet or muddy to prevent them getting cold or uncomfortable. Bringing a spare pair of socks is always a good idea!



Puddle fun!

Cost and booking

All prices listed are inclusive of VAT, sessions can be booked on Eventbrite and are subject to booking fee. Links to Eventbrite booking are found on page 5.

Half termly rate: The cost is £48.00 per six-week half termly sessions. If you would like to join mid-way through a half term, you can pay £48.00 for the remaining sessions, pay the **Pay as you go** rate for each remaining session, or wait until the new half term begins. There is a sibling discount rate of £33.00 which is available for siblings of a full paying child. Siblings under 18 months accompanying a full paying child are free. Sibling tickets are not available to book online, please contact Sophie at sharris@wildlondon.org.uk if you would like to book any siblings into the programme.

If you cannot attend a session, please let us know by emailing Diana on dwallace@wildlondon.org.uk so the Forest School leader who is running the session knows how many people to expect. If you miss a session, you will not be reimbursed, nor can you carry that session over to the following term.

This option is advised if you know you can make at least four of the sessions during the half term as it is more cost effective.

Pay as you go rate: The cost is £12.00 per session to attend sessions on an ad-hoc basis. The cost for additional siblings is £9.00. Siblings under 18 months accompanying a full paying child are free.

If you have booked a session but then cannot attend, please cancel through Eventbrite on the link on your booking confirmation. Pay as you go tickets can be refunded up to 1 day before the session you have booked. If you do not cancel in advance we cannot refund the ticket, nor can the ticket be used for another session.

This option is advised if you know you cannot attend at least three of the sessions during the half term as it will work out cheaper than paying for the full half term.



Leaf art



Bird spotting



Bread making

Nature Tots dates for Sept 2024 - July 2025

Mondays 10.30am-12.00pm

Autumn	Spring	Summer*
Autumn Term 1 9 September 16 September 23 September 30 September 7 October 14 October	Spring Term 1 6 January 13 January 20 January 27 January 3 February 10 February	Summer Term 1 28 April 5 May (Bank Hol) 12 May 19 May
2-week break	1 week break	1 week break
Autumn Term 2 4 November 11 November 18 November 25 November 2 December 9 December	Spring Term 2 24 February 3 March 10 March 17 March 24 March 31 March	Summer Term 2 2 June 9 June 16 June 23 June 30 June 7 July 14 July
3-week break	3-week break	Break for summer

*Please note the Summer term only has 3 weeks (half-term 1) and 7 weeks (half-term 2)

Links to all Nature Tots booking pages for 2024-25

The web page addresses below are all clickable links

Mondays	
Autumn 1 Sept-Oct 24	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/945579262027?aff=oddtcreator
Autumn 2 Nov-Dec 24	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/945590676167?aff=oddtcreator
Spring 1 Jan-Feb 25	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/945593454477?aff=oddtcreator
Spring 2 Feb-Apr 25	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/945599472477?aff=oddtcreator
Summer 1 Apr-May 25	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/945601307967?aff=oddtcreator
Summer 2 Jun-Jul 25	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/945854836277?aff=oddtcreator
Pay As You Go & Taster Sessions Sept 24 - Jul 25	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/945097360647?aff=oddtcreator

About Centre for Wildlife Gardening

Centre for Wildlife Gardening is the perfect place to learn and relax in a welcoming outdoor environment. It is a favourite spot for local families, school children, gardeners and wildlife watchers; having grown beyond recognition since the Trust created it in the late 1980s from an old council depot.

The centre's demonstration wildlife garden has a range of mini-habitats including ponds, chalk bank, wildflower meadow, woodland copse, herb garden, stag beetle sanctuaries, insect hotels, and raised beds demonstrating permaculture. The site has been a Green Flag Community Award winner for several years.

For more information about Centre for Wildlife Gardening visit

<https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/nature-reserves/centre-wildlife-gardening>



Location and Transport

Address: Centre for Wildlife Gardening, 28 Marsden Road, London, SE15 4EE

Access: There is only one entrance to the centre. On coming through the main gates, proceed down the drive. The green doors on the left are the toilets. At the far end of the site you will see a wooden building which is the visitor centre and office.

By Train: Nearest stations are East Dulwich (approx. 0.4 miles away) and Peckham Rye (approx. 0.6 miles away). See map for locations relative to the Centre for Wildlife Gardening.

By Bus: Nearest bus stops are Elsie Road, Ondine Road, East Dulwich Road Goose Green (Stop H) and East Dulwich Road Goose Green (Stop G). See map for locations relative to the Centre for Wildlife Gardening and bus numbers.

By Bike: Please ask a staff member and they will show you where bikes can be safely parked.

By Car: There is free street parking on surrounding roads but no public parking inside the gates, we cannot guarantee what street parking will be available on any given day.

