

## Example questions to ask or find out about your potential Forest School Provider

These questions are available as a downloadable resource <https://forestschoolassociation.org/book-resources/> [1]

- ☐ What type of FS qualification do they hold? Which level? What is the name of the qualification on their certificate?
- ☐ Do they hold any additional education qualifications such as a B.Ed. or PGCE (whilst this is not a necessity it might be relevant to your setting)?
- ☐ When did they qualify? How much experience do they have?
- ☐ Who was their Awarding Organisation? Is this an FSA supported Awarding Organisation?
- ☐ What type of client groups have they worked with in the past?
- ☐ What do they consider to be vital components of Forest School? Are you both on the same page? E.g. did they mention all six Forest School principles?
- ☐ Do they have Public Liability Insurance that covers Forest School activities? What are the stated conditions of that insurance?
- ☐ When was their most recent DBS check? Can they bring current documentation in to enable you to conduct a new check?
- ☐ What is their process for planning sessions? E.g. do they approach planning by starting with the needs of the client group?
- ☐ Can you agree on an overarching focus with them for the group you have in mind?
- ☐ Will they conduct a training session for supporting adults before Forest School provision begins? Does this involve additional cost?
- ☐ Will they hold an introductory meeting to share information about the Forest School ethos and principles with parents/carers before provision begins?
- ☐ Do they have an example of an existing Forest School handbook they would be willing to share with you?
- ☐ Which of your setting policies will they need sight of to create a handbook appropriate for your planned provision?
- ☐ Do you have any policies that you need to negotiate or discuss deviating from?
- ☐ What would their approach to behaviour management be? Are you comfortable with the proposed approach to behaviour?
- ☐ Are they comfortable and clear about your school safeguarding processes?
- ☐ Do they have their own woodland space? Can you visit to take a look?
- ☐ If they do not have their own woodland space, are they able to offer other possible locations you could use?
- ☐ Are you confident they are taking care of their woodland space? E.g. do they have a woodland management plan and Environmental Impact Assessment that you can see?
- ☐ How do they charge for provision? How will you cover these costs?
- ☐ Where does their value judgement lie with regards to risk? Are you on the same page?