Learning at Heaton Woods

Everyday learning with your child • Ages 3–5

Talk, notice and try things together. A woodland visit can build big skills.



A woodland full of discoveries

Heaton Woods has natural paths, trees and a stream. Take a short walk and give your child time to notice small things.

Use Urdu, Punjabi or another home language. Choose a route that suits your family: paths can be muddy and uneven.

Look closely at leaves and trees

Compare fallen leaves on the path. Notice their edges, shapes and colours. Look at bark and use words such as rough, smooth and ridged.

“How are these leaves the same? How are they different?”

Count, compare and make patterns

Count a few fallen leaves together. Compare bigger and smaller, longer and shorter. Make a simple leaf pattern, then leave the leaves behind.

“Big leaf, small leaf, big leaf. What comes next?”

Listen and watch for wildlife

Pause quietly on the path. Listen for birds and rustling leaves. Look for movement in the trees without chasing or disturbing animals.

“What can you hear? Is that sound near or far away?”

Wonder about woodland life

Notice a fallen log, moss or a web without disturbing it. Talk about where small creatures might live and what they might need.

“Who might live here? What makes it a good hiding place?”

Notice changes through the year

Return to a familiar tree in different seasons. Look for buds, new leaves or fallen leaves. Talk about weather and changes you notice.

“What has changed since our last visit?”

Tell a woodland adventure

Imagine a tiny character travelling through the woods. Take turns adding ideas. At home, draw a woodland picture or retell your walk.

“First the little mouse found a leaf. What happened next?”

Make it right for your child

Start simple: name a colour, listen for a sound or count 1–3 leaves.
Add a challenge: explain a pattern, compare leaves or draw and label your walk.

Slow down, look closely and wonder together. A short walk is enough.

Stay together on paths, away from stream edges. Wear suitable footwear. Do not pick or taste plants, berries or fungi. Leave wildlife undisturbed and wash hands before eating.

Visitor information: woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/heaton-woods/

St. Philip's CE Primary Academy
Working Together