

**EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE OUTDOOR FACILITIES AND STAFF
ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOURS SURVEY ©**

The survey

These questions were used in the survey carried out in 2013. It was sent on line to early year settings in the south east of England. The results are published in these two articles:

- Bilton, H. (2014a). The aims of early years outdoor education in England: A conceptual and empirical investigation. *International Journal of Education and Social Science*, 1, (3), Oct, 38-50.
- Bilton, H. (2014b). What is outside? The Early Years Foundation Stage in England: Outdoor facilities, organisation and staff attitudes. *American Journal of Educational Research*, 2, (10), 942-949. doi:10.12691/education-2-10-14.

If you wish to use these survey questions please do acknowledge me and also let me know how you get on as I would be interested in your findings.

SURVEY BELOW

Outdoor facilities and teacher attitudes and behaviours survey questions

1. How many classes access the outdoor area? 1,2,3,4

2. What is the maximum number of children able to access the outdoor area at any one time? Up to 10, 11-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61-70, 71-80, 81-90, 91-100, more than 100.

3. How long is the outdoor area available to the children in one session? (a session denoting a morning or afternoon): up to 15 minutes, up to 30 minutes, up to 45 minutes, up to 1 hour, up to 1 hour and 15 minutes, up to 1 hour and 30 minutes, up to 1 hour and 45 minutes, up to 2 hours, up to 2 hours and 15 minutes, up to 2 hours and 45 minutes, up to 3 hours.

4. Is outdoor free-flow (freely available during the day) or timetabled (fixed period of time every day)? If timetabled, how long is this for and at what time? If free-flow, are there any restrictions?

5. Thinking about the following list, which factors create drawbacks to practice? (select all that apply): access to and from the outdoor space, size, layout, fixed equipment, weather, lack of seating, the look of the place, storage, other (please specify).

6. What are your specific aims for outdoor activities and how do these relate to your overall aims?

7. Please provide three or four key learning outcomes for outdoor activities?

8. Do staff plan for outside activities? If yes, could you comment on the following: are these activities planned with the same detail, as those inside? Is the planning for inside and outside activities integrated? Do you do spontaneous planning?

9. How many fixed pieces of equipment are in the outdoor area? Fixed: attached to the ground and cannot be moved. Please list items and if possible how popular each item is.

10. How many three wheeler/tricycles do you have? 1+, 5+. How many are used at one time?

11. Would you say that your outdoor space is an effective size? Yes, No, I do not know.

12. Roughly how large is the outdoor space?

13. Does the outside environment lend itself to different activities/resources compared to inside? If yes, what resources and activities?

14. Do any of the children behave differently outside compared to inside? If so, in what ways?

15. Do you consider that the children view inside and outside as different? If yes, in

what ways?
16. Is children's learning different outside compared to in? If yes, please explain.
17. Do boys and girls play together outside? If so, what types of games/activities/resources do they play with together?
18. Can children access resources for themselves? Yes, No, Sometimes, Somethings. If no, why not?
19. What do staff see as their role outside?
20. What do staff and children talk about when outside?
21. Using a scale 1-10 (1: little 10: a lot) indicate how much opportunity children have to control/change/modify their environment, within your school?
22. Kritchensky suggests that resources can be categorised as: simple (only one type of use, eg: a bike), complex (having a double dimension eg: finger painting at a table) or super units (multi use, such as blocks). What would you say you have the majority of?
23. Is there anything else you would like to say about the outdoor environment?
24. Many thanks for taking the time to complete this study. If you have any further comments or questions about the outdoor environment, either write below or contact XXXX. I hope you found this a useful exercise.