

LEARNING BAYS /EXPERIENCES ©

What the learning bays are

In my first publication (1998), in an attempt to make clearer how to set up the outdoor environment for teaching and learning I coined the phrase 'learning bays'; developed into Learning experiences in the 2010 publication. This gives guidance on how to organise the outdoor space, to consider what aspects of the curriculum need to be provided and what aspects of child development are catered for. However, it is important to see these as guidance not that these zones must be provided outside. The bays or experiences will be evident in planning and discussions but will not be always explicitly apparent when viewing the outdoor environment. See Bilton, H. (2010).The outdoor teaching and learning environment. Abingdon: Routledge for a full explanation.

The learning bays/experiences

Imaginative play

Building, construction and material play

Gross motor development

Fine motor development

Gardening/horticulture

Environmental and scientific discovery

Creative development

Quiet reflection