



Swainswick Explorers

www.PlayingOutdoors.org

Upper Swainswick House, Tadwick Lane, Bath BA1 8BU

rachel@playingoutdoors.org; 01225 858251

Located in a small, rural village on the edge of Bath, Swainswick Explorers provide children with adventurous and stimulating outdoor play and learning experiences. Established in 2003 by qualified playworkers Edward and Rachel Leigh-Wood, they have worked with children and young people of ages 3–16 from across Bath and offer holiday playschemes, parties, an after-school club, school trips and specific workshops for primary and secondary schools, and an outdoor parent and toddler group.

Edward and Rachel have Diplomas in play work (CACHE Diploma level 3), and are qualified in Basic Expedition Leaders Training and as John Muir Trek Leaders (from the Institute of Earth Education). Edward is a qualified secondary school teacher and is Forest School trained. Rachel grew up in the Swainswick valley and has a background in business and the arts. They are both Ofsted registered childminders, trained in Paediatric First Aid and have led and attended numerous conferences and workshops on outdoor play and green woodworking.

At the heart of Swainswick Explorers is a love for play, people and the environment. Edward, Rachel and their team of leaders are passionate about the importance of outdoor play in the development of children and young people's emotional and educational wellbeing. Play and learning sessions take a child-centred and flexible approach, developing freely as the children and wild spaces interact with each other. Skills such as navigating steep slopes, tool use and fire lighting are introduced with adult guidance and support, and are developed for imaginary play initiated by the children themselves.

Swainswick Explorers take people out of their everyday experience, encouraging children to explore and engage with the world around them and develop a love for the environment.

Swainswick Explorers' Seven Objectives

- We extend the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.
- We recognise the child's need to test boundaries and responds positively to that need.
- We manage the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm.
- We maximise the range of play opportunities.
- We foster independence and self-esteem.
- We foster children's respect for others and offer opportunities for social interaction.
- We foster the child's well-being, healthy growth and development, knowledge and understanding, creativity and capacity to learn.