



Role Play Ideas and Green Careers

The National Education Nature Park encourages learners to think creatively about a greener future, communicate innovative ideas and work together to increase the biodiversity of their setting. An outdoor role play area encourages imagination and creativity. Learners grow socially and emotionally by putting themselves in someone else's shoes whilst improving their speech and problem-solving skills. By setting up an outdoor role play, learners can role play different green careers and solve imaginary environmental problems. Who knows, your settings next green intervention could be dreamt up in your role play corner! Once designed, the space can be played in repeatedly with little adult input. An area of trees could be a perfect setting for a role play area, but there is always the possibility to bring nature into your indoor setting for learners to interact with.

Below are some roleplay area ideas.

Occupational Role play

Rangers Station – Learners can role play taking care of woodlands by planting new trees, axing down dead plant life, building log piles for bugs to thrive and keeping a look out for and protecting deer, foxes, hedgehogs, badgers and birdlife.

Arctic Explorer – Learners can practise walking across the 'snow' pulling their sledges with food, tool and look out equipment. Make a 'fire' to stay warm and stay on guard to look out and protect polar bears or practise sawing a hole in the ice to fish for survival.

Landscape Architect or Gardener – Learners can practise designing a new wildlife area for their setting, plotting which green intervention to put where and practise using gardening tools either in the earth or in a soil filled tuff spot.

Archaeologist - Learners can use old toothbrushes, tiny trowels and play hammers to dig for historical artifacts.



Inventor – This lab could work well both indoors and out. Learners can enter the lab in their safety goggles and white coats to invent the next biodegradable plastic made from plants, seaweed or soil. They can put their materials through tough testing including melting point, time it takes to turn back into soil, how much weight it can hold and whether its waterproof.

Fictional Role Play

Many books in your book corner will be set in a woodland or natural environment. Setting up a role play in your outdoor area can encourage learners to explore the narrative further whilst also connecting to nature.

Real Life Role Play

This can be based in your construction, loose parts zone or with a pile of natural resources collected from a natural green space. Each week a new environmental scenario can be set, and learners can use the construction materials to work on it. Some scenarios could be:

- A storm has blown away the local hedgehogs' homes and we need to create a new safe space for the hedgehog family to live, by dry and explore from.
- Worms eat dead things in nature and poo out soil. How can we encourage more worms to live in our setting and make more good soil for us. They need; air in the soil.



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