

Ways to supplement your income: Forest school practitioner

Business model	Qualities required	Training required	If you're not sure yet...	Typical working hours	Location	Regulatory requirements	Projected income
<p>Forest school is an outdoor learning approach inspired by the Scandinavian education system.</p> <p>Sessions take place in a natural environment, strengthening the relationship between the learner and the natural world and offering children the opportunity to take supported risks.</p> <p>Forest school leaders plan and facilitate each forest school session. They also risk assess, ensuring that outdoor areas and resources are suitable and maintained.</p> <p>Forest school assistants help with the practical running of each forest school session and the maintenance of equipment.</p>	<p>Love of working with children, a love of the outdoors, confidence in ensuring safety and wellbeing. Imagination, enthusiasm, good communication skills.</p>	<p>Forest school leaders must have a level 3 forest school qualification.</p> <p>Forest school assistants must have a level 2 forest school qualification.</p> <p>The great news is that as a qualified childcare provider, you'll already meet some other requirements such as experience of working with children and an enhanced DBS certificate.</p>	<p>There is a level 1 forest school training course. This is aimed at anyone over the age of 16 who is interested in the forest school approach. The course introduces participants to the ethos and practicalities of forest school learning.</p>	<p>Many forest school practitioners are employed on a fulltime basis by a group childcare setting or school.</p> <p>However, there are also plenty of freelance opportunities such as running weekly sessions at primary schools or out-of-school and holiday clubs.</p>	<p>Forest schools don't need to have access to vast forests and woodlands; they can take place in a field, on the school grounds or by the beach. As long as you have the required permission to use the land; plenty of outdoor space; some trees; and natural resources for the children to learn with.</p>	<p>Forest schools must be registered with Ofsted, even if there is no building and the children learn outdoors only.</p> <p>As well as registering with Ofsted, forest school practitioners require enhanced DBS checks and a paediatric first aid certificate that covers outdoor incident management.</p> <p>If food is cooked or provided, practitioners require a food safety certificate that covers outdoor settings.</p>	<p>Forest school practitioner salaries vary, depending on your level of qualification and experience, and whether the role is employed or freelance.</p> <p>Fulltime employed roles range from around £16K to £35K, depending on the type of role and level of experience.</p> <p>As a freelance forest school practitioner, you could expect to earn between £8 and £25 an hour.</p>