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Schools Environmental Education Programme/Glendale

Dear Headmaster / Headmistress,

Glendale are the official contractors of Lewisham Borough Council for the maintenance of Lewisham's Parks and Open Spaces. As part of this 'total' care service Glendale are eager to involve local schools in using the parks as an educational resource, for a multitude of environmental and conservation subjects. We have a dedicated nature conservation officer who would lead the sessions and tailor the sessions to your school curriculum needs. We can also organize combined day sessions of environmental studies and sporting activities such as Tag Rugby, which would be instructed by our sports development officer Paul Harper. All the sessions are free of charge.

Below are some of the exciting and informative activities that we can offer. Please contact Lara Al-Jabi, the nature conservation officer on 07919548324 to organize and book a session.

Sessions available:

- Pond Dipping
- Building Bird/Bat Boxes
- Soil Studies
- Habitat Studies
- Food Chain Studies
- Life Cycle Studies
- Mini Beast Hunts
- Tree Trails
- Nature Walks
- Conservation Work (e.g. planting, vegetation clearance, fencing....)
- Litter Picking
- Paper Recycling
- Pollution Studies

The sessions can be run in the parks or in the school grounds.

Activity	Description of Activity
Pond Dipping	Children dip nets into the water and catch different aquatic organisms. Using white-bottomed trays and magnifying glasses, the children will be able to identify different species and see the different adaptations of the species. This activity will also explore the life cycles of the aquatic organism. All of these tools will be supplied by Glendale.
Building Bird / Bat Boxes	Children can learn about habitats and why it is important to artificially create habitats like bird / bat boxes. The finished boxes can be used in the school ground or placed in the parks creating a sense of ownership for their open spaces. This activity could be used as a term project, which starts and ends with classroom talks. This activity is probably more suitable for older children and in a classroom environment.
Soil Studies	Using small trowels, children dig holes and the resulting soil sample can be analysed for organic and non-organic material. This activity demonstrates different materials make up different soils and soil type has a direct effect on the things that can grow and live in them.
Habitat Studies	The children can be shown the different habitats, and why it is important to have a range of habitats by taking them on a walk around the parks or school grounds or by playing different outdoor games.
Life Cycle Studies	This activity will include performing different jar experiments or planting fast growing plants and constantly supervising and then comparing with life cycles of other organisms.



Activity	Description of Activity
Mini Beast Hunts	This activity involves groups of children, walking around the park looking for insects, collecting them in jars for later identification and noting down the type of habitat they found each insect. The activity demonstrates how different species are adapted to live in different habitats.
Tree Trails	Children will stroll around one of Lewisham's parks with the conservation officer and learn about different species of trees and how to identify them using key features of the trees. They will also learn how to roughly measure the height and age of a tree.
Nature Walks	This activity is a general walk and talk around a park explaining to the children the various things they can see and hear in a park.
Conservation Work	The conservation work can range from planting shrubs and bulbs to vegetation clearance alongside river / pond banks, woodlands or meadows.
Litter Picking	The children will walk around the park and pick up the garbage using litter pickers. Then, they will find out the decomposition time needed for the different kinds of litter.
Paper Recycling	The children will learn how to make and recycle paper from scrap paper in the classroom. This activity will show the impact of papermaking practices on natural resources such as water and trees, and encourage the reduction in paper wastage and increase the use of recycled paper among the students.
Pollution Studies	Teaching children about different types of pollution and their effects on the environment around them.

Please ensure that appropriate clothing, footwear for the weather conditions and gloves are provided for the students.





Benefits of outdoor environmental educational programmes for students:

1. Discover relationships between classroom curriculum and the natural world.
2. Learn how to think about wildlife and the environment by evaluating choices and consequences.
3. Enjoy themselves while learning.
4. Increase self-esteem and social skills.
5. Make them aware, respect and appreciate their local green spaces.