

# Case Study 2

## CPD - Outdoor Learning



### Outdoor learning CPD Hartsholme Country Park

In February we set up an outdoor learning CPD workshop for all homes at the suggestion of staff. We were pleased that four of the six homes attended the workshop.

The sessions aim was to:  
Offer staff new ideas of how to use creative play in the outdoors

- Provide a team building experience
- Offer a therapeutic opportunity

The session was delivered by Nottinghamshire company Responsible Fishing, (RF)

RF have worked on the programme already offering bespoke CPD in some

of the children's homes. This Session was a development from these initial workshops and encouraged staff to develop their ideas further.



The session began indoor with James sharing some of his past work. RF offer a range of creative workshops to young people. This includes stone balancing, fir cone bees, tree ladders, patterns on the floor etc. Staff were very engaged and keen to get outside and start to try ideas.

James from RF had visited Hartsholme prior to the session and had found an appropriate area to run the workshop in. This was a clearing in the wood with plenty of fallen branches and leaves.

We worked in 3 groups. One group began making tree ladders and then developed this to be twigs in patterns on the floor.

Another group created a line of twigs in the shadow created by a tree, this was then developed into a ladder which was suspended with wire.

The whole group also made paper bag mushrooms which is part of a worldwide project and was logged on the website so Hartsholme is now tagged as a host venue.

A third group created a tree on the floor removing the bracken and using branches. They also used sticks to create writing.

It was a cold day but participants were eager to complete their designs. An important part of the completion of the work was photographing the designs. Staff all photographed their work.

By the end of the session staff were reflecting on how they could use the ideas in their own environments which was great to hear. At the end of the session we undertook some verbal evaluation. Quotes included:

*Brilliant and messy.*

*Loved it, It was a great escape, perfect one I feel relaxed.*

*It is hard to get away from the children but this was escapism. It focused your mind for a few hours.*

*I think this would be good for other staff.*

*It was a good shared experience.*

*It was good doing out of our own environments as there were less distractions.*

