How does Forest School foster resilient, confident, independent and creative learners?

**Resilient** - Resilient learners are fostered by:

* Providing challenging activities that require “staying power” – tasks with the possibility of initial failure work well at building resilience.
* Giving opportunities for tasks to be repeated should a learner wish to practice and improve on a challenging skill.
* Helping learners to deal with failure and disappointment by reassuring them that things do not always go to plan first time and that we can learn from mistakes by building on that knowledge to improve next time.
* Encouraging teamwork which in itself can build resilience as learners deal with any conflict and gain an understanding of the fact that “their way” may not always be the best way.

s**Confident** - Confident learners are fostered by:

* Providing opportunities where learners have to work as a team and express their thoughts and ideas to the other learners.
* Allowing learners to participate in “risky” activities that allow for mistakes to be made so that learners can deal with their mistake (building resilience) and “go again” until they succeed and therefore become more confident.
* Building confidence by noticing a learner’s achievement and praising appropriately, this could be an achievement that is skill based or behaviour wise.
* Encouraging all learners to “lead” an activity at some point at a level that they feel comfortable with.
* Ensuring that learners can complete tasks by making them small and achievable.

**Independent -** Independent learners are fostered by:

* Providing open ended tasks and activities that allow a learner to choose how to complete a task using their own area of strength to achieve the outcome that they want.
* Encouraging learners to take responsibility for their own learning and to think carefully about possible “risks” in the environment to themselves and others and how to manage that risk.
* Facilitating sessions rather than “instructing” allowing a child-led learning approach to flourish.

**Creative -** Creative learners are fostered by:

* Encouraging imaginative play which utilises the natural resources found in the Forest School area for example fairies made from sticks and leaves.
* Encouraging learners to think creatively and “outside the box” during all activities and challenges not just “craft” based activities.