

## Out And About Or In And Around

Yvonne Smillie, Experiential Play

*“Playing games is a vital part of every child’s development and the child will play them whatever we provide for him, and even if we don’t”*

Natural Childhood  
John B. Thomson

Play is an instinctive need and in our computer and media driven world we are seeing a decrease in a child’s motivation and interest to engage in what we would call ‘traditional types of play’.

Outings are almost a thing of the past in our settings. The cost, policy and time consumed by organising an outing leaves us sometimes with the thought, ‘why bother!’

During the training day we will look at five or six simple ideas for an outing. It may be to a local park to find the clues and trail left by a huge teddy bears picnic the day before or to a local shop who need the children’s help to get ready for a very important visitor.

Delegates will also be introduced

to the adult-in-role technique to introduce ideas such as the Litter Gang, Woodland Warriors and Bug Buddies.

Any of these ideas can be prepared for and taken on an outing or be set up in an outside area to encourage a child’s wonder at the natural world we sometimes don’t ‘see’ or appreciate.

Another part of the day will look at children going on an outing to another part of the building. It may be introducing them to a room with children they don’t know, an office, a kitchen or even the toilet area. Suggestions and activities will be looked at that will make each of the ‘visits’ exciting and intriguing for young children.

