STEM for the Youngest

SCIENCE ON STAGE 2026
KLAIPĖDA·LITHUANIA
THE EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR SCIENCE TEACHERS

Vehkataipale School and Loiske Pre-primary Education | Taipalsaari | Finland

Forest School Approach for learning STEAM subjects

Forest School – Active Learning in Nature

How can we engage learners who are not motivated by traditional teaching methods?
How to implement more active learning into teaching STEAM subjects?

FOREST SCHOOL

- ✓ **Activity based learning** crossing classroom lines and subjects
- ✓ Activities always **directed by the curriculum**
- ✓ **Cooperative and experiential** learning in surrounding nature
- ✓ Activities take place **all year round** one day a week in all kinds of weather
- ✓ **Whole school participates**; children from 5 to 12 years
- ✓ School lunch is also served outside
- ✓ Connects the school with the local society and companies
- ✓ We prepare and use DIY materials and cheap learning tools

Forest School is an educational approach where the **school community learns and teaches in nature**. Learning is curriculum-based and organized across subjects, with pupils working in age-based or mixed-age groups depending on the theme.

FOREST SCHOOL IN PRACTICE

- ✓ Mathematic operations using natural materials as educational tools
- ✓ Different studies e.g. with water, snow, ice, friction etc.
- ✓ Observing surrounding nature with versatile means
- ✓ Station-based activities and activity courses on given theme
- ✓ Building and coding assignments
- ✓ Versatile physical games as mean to learning content
- ✓ Good amount of everyday exercise
- ✓ Art with natural materials
- ✓ Drama pedagogy, story telling, learning languages included
- ✓ We use proper research tools outside the school building

Teaching STEAM in Nature
- Where Learning Comes Alive