

Guardians of the Planet



Nurturing Children's Connection to Nature through Play, Purpose and Pedagogy

Join us for a **transformational four-day retreat** where educators, leaders, and changemakers come together to share, reflect, and reimagine the way we nurture children's connection to the natural world.

**A Four Day
Educational Retreat**



This isn't just any training — it's a **rare opportunity** to dive deep into nature pedagogy, surrounded by like-minded professionals, passionate about shaping a better future. Each session is purpose driven for anyone who is ready to put nature at the heart of learning.



**Only
£1,500 plus VAT**



Every child is unique, filled with potential — and deeply connected to the natural world. These connections aren't just emotional; they're biological, woven into our very DNA.

From simple acts like bringing greenery into our settings, to empowering children to recycle, repurpose, and care for their world — this session explores how we can **ignite a lifelong love of nature** in the next generation.

- Learn how to foster environmental awareness through meaningful play
- Discover nature pedagogy that goes beyond “outdoor time”
- Co-create a sustainable future for our children — and the planet

In an age of climate crisis, raising Guardians of the Planet isn't just meaningful — it's essential.

Join us and be part of the movement to inspire change through early years education.



Where?

Oak Tree Inn
Balmaha,
Glasgow
G63 0JQ



When?

Tues 28-Fri 31
Oct 2025



**Because the future depends on what we do today.
Let's raise children who love, protect, and thrive in nature.**

Workshops



Healthier & Happier Little Humans

Discover the power of nature in raising healthier, happier children! Science shows that time in the natural world doesn't just feel good — it *is* good, for body, mind, and soul.

We will explore how playful time outdoors boosts:

Physical health – stronger immunity, active bodies, fresh air

Mental clarity – less stress, brighter moods, sharper minds

Emotional well-being – deeper mindfulness, better social connections

Creative minds – more imagination, focus, and restful sleep

Building a Sustainable Future: A Shared Responsibility

Sustainability isn't just a concept — it's a call to action. In this powerful session, we'll explore how the three pillars of sustainability — environmental, social, and economic — can guide us toward a healthier planet and a fairer, more resilient world.

Together, we'll unpack how our everyday choices can protect biodiversity, fight climate change, support social justice, and ensure resources for future generations.

This workshop will inspire you to lead with purpose, act with awareness, and nurture a culture of sustainability in every space you influence — from the nursery to the wider world.



The Project Approach: Designing Nature-Inspired Learning

Based on the work of Dr. Lilian Katz, this workshop introduces the **Project Approach** as a powerful way to deepen children's learning through nature-inspired inquiry.

Learn how to create meaningful projects that build on curiosity, encourage critical thinking, and connect learning to real-life experiences — both inside and beyond the playroom.

Join us to explore

- **Authenticity** – Grounding projects in real, meaningful interests
- **Academic Rigour** – Embedding knowledge and skills through inquiry
- **Applied Learning** – Learning through doing and discovering
- **Active Exploration** – Encouraging child-led, open-ended investigation
- **Adult Connections** – The adult's role in deepening and supporting learning
- **Reflection Practices** – Observing, documenting, and celebrating progress



Mother Nature, Our Ancestor: Raising Guardians of the Planet

What kind of ancestor will *you* be? In this thought-provoking workshop, we'll explore our deep human need to belong — to our history, our land, and our future.

Rooted in nature pedagogy, not just outdoor play, this session challenges us to reflect on our legacy:

- What kind of children are we raising for the planet?
- What kind of planet are we leaving for our children?

Together, we'll reconnect with Mother Nature as our oldest ancestor and co-create a **Guardians of the Planet** project — a bold, heart-driven approach to place the natural world at the core of our teaching and our lives.



Supporting Schematic Play with Nature's Wonders

Get ready to flip your thinking on schematic play! This hands-on, high-energy workshop dives into the magic of nature as the perfect playground for children's deep thinking and learning.

From sorting leaves to building with sticks, exploring textures, patterns, and even tracking animals — we'll unlock the power of nature to support schema-rich, meaningful play.

Discover how to plan with purpose, spark curiosity, and weave nature into everyday learning.

It's creative, it's cognitive, and it's pure joy — naturally!



Why do we run Educational Retreats?? What are the benefits?

Our educational retreats offer a unique opportunity for focused learning and personal growth in a more immersive and relaxed environment.



Focused Learning in a Distraction-Free Environment

This setting will allow you to immerse yourself deeply in the subject matter, leading to better retention and understanding.

Networking and Collaboration

We will bring together like-minded individuals who have a shared interest. This will create a rich environment for collaboration, sharing ideas, and learning from others' experiences.

Enhanced Creativity and Critical Thinking

We will encourage you to think outside the box in your nature play approach, considering it from different angles. The relaxed, open atmosphere will foster your creative juices for a deeper level of engagement.



Personal Growth and Reflection

There will be time for you to reflect, mull over and fully consider how you can take the ideas, principles and philosophies forward for you, the team and of course the children.

Interdisciplinary Learning

Our retreats combine various forms of learning—teaching sessions, hands-on activities, nature walks, group discussions—allowing participants to absorb knowledge in a multi-faceted way.



Access to Experts and Mentors

Our range of guest speakers, trainers and mentors who are experts in their fields give you direct access to these experts for learning, guidance, and inspiration.



Inspiration and Motivation

Being surrounded by passionate individuals, knowledgeable speakers, and a fresh environment will provide a significant boost to your enthusiasm and motivation to learn.

Balanced Approach to Learning

The combination of structured learning, free time, shared reflections and experiential activities offers a balanced way to absorb information while also maintaining mental clarity and energy.

Please note that places are limited, we only have space for 15 delegates to attend.

The cost is £1,500 per person, plus vat.

This will include 3 nights luxury accommodation (own room), bed, breakfast, lunches and dinners.



For more information

- www.alicesharp.co.uk
- Email : info@alicesharp.co.uk
- Call :0141 557 1666

You will leave this course with a 'tool box' fit for any learning situation. You will be a much more informed Early Years Professional, as well as having a broad range of new knowledge, skills and engagement techniques.

Each delegate will leave with a range of power points, learning stories, workshop prompt cards, research papers, articles, environment and resource photo cards, learning and teaching postcards and a reading list.

These can then be used to cascade to whole staff teams or to deliver training.