

# OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY

## AGES

0–18 years old

## CONTRIBUTED BY

### Project Dirt

London, England, United Kingdom  
outdoorclassroomday.com



© OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY

Every child needs to learn many skills and lessons that you just can't teach inside the classroom ... grit, resilience, to be more physically active, to deeply love the environment, and to be more creative. Outdoor Classroom Day invites you to have a go at taking your planned lessons outdoors, to observe how important playtime is during the school day, and to learn that even if you are "poor in resources", you too can be "rich in environment"!

## BEFOREHAND

Outdoor Classroom Day is an international event. Sign up to say you are taking part! If you can't do your outdoor lesson on the actual Outdoor Classroom Day, that's okay. Choose your own! (Visit [outdoorclassroomday.com](http://outdoorclassroomday.com) to see this year's dates.) Make sure you have permission from parents for photos.

If you don't have school grounds, then think about using the street outside your school (ask if it can be closed) or a local park or green space.

Be sure children and adults are prepared for different weather possibilities. Plan ahead, but do leave room to be inspired on the day!

## ON THE DAY

If this is your first time taking lessons outdoors focus on the process. Designate an area as the class space, be clear on expectations, and keep the lesson simple. There will be plenty of time for more complicated lessons when this is part of your everyday routine.

Make playtime super special and LONGER. Give children 10 minutes at the start to run around so they get those fidgets out first!

Can you offer more "play objects" than a few balls? Consider asking local businesses donate cardboard boxes, or asking every child bring in a bit of "junk" like old curtains, broken computers, crates, or tires. Even something simple like chalk can be a great addition to the outdoor play environment.

Observe what is going on at playtime—there are so many unteachable skills developing in a great recess. Can you spot the leaders? The team players? The child enjoying the feel of the sun? The persevering child? Get to know your students in a different way!

Record your experiences. Take photographs and videos of the fun that you have had so you can share them with students and parents alike.

## AFTERWARDS

Invite the children to reflect and discuss what they did and how they felt with their classmates. Listen to the language they use and encourage classmates to ask questions

Give children "outdoor play" homework. Can you inspire parents to get their children outdoors more after school or on the weekends, too?

Share your experiences. Outdoor Classroom Day is all about building a movement, so inspire everyone with what you and your students have done! Send a press release to your local paper, put up photos on noticeboards, or give a presentation to school administrators or governors. If you share images on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram use the hashtag [#outdoorclassroom](https://www.instagram.com/outdoorclassroom). You can also share with parents on [#dirtisgood](https://www.instagram.com/dirtisgood)!

