**Forest School and Outdoor Learning Research discussion group**

Geoff Mason introduced group discussion.

Geoff posed the question: is health and well-being the way we should be taking our research - is this where the money is?

Health links with physical activities in the outdoors – a delegate quoted research that exists demonstrating that children partaking in outdoor learning all had similar levels of sustained activity.

Vicky Eyles discussed research done through her Masters re: children's voice and their experiences at FS – this needs to be re-written for publication in Practitioner magazines and scientific journals

Tracey Martin discussed research re: learning through language, looking at FS/outdoor learning practice - to be completed approx. June 2016

A delegate proposed the collection of Practitioner stories, even just 20 individual experiences collected can add weight to what can be seen as anecdotal evidence.

A further question was posed: is there a need in the FSA for research and study groups?

Sue Waite and Phil Waters discussed research they are conducting and posed the question that needs to be researched: what does FS and/or woods offer learners?

*Good From Woods* was discussed as tool for Practitioners to research their own provision and share the results easily. FSA needs to connect with Good from Woods to see how this can be disseminated to the membership and wider FS world.

Delegate Ian discussed two schools he was linked with and research that would be able to target children observed to measure attainment through FS experience.

**Practical outcomes from the wider discussion:**

It was stated that we need to use teachers' / headteachers' / parents' / funders' language (and consider their values?) when sharing evidence.

Local groups networking could be used to get research into wider audiences locally.

Groups of researchers could be collected on forum and emailed directly for advice.

Schools / OL settings that would like to volunteer for research case studies could come forward on FSA forum.

Research papers should be sourced through some academic, social media links, rather than the FSA holding them. FSA is a signposting organisation.

Does IOL have access to papers? If so, can we link to Horizons magazine and papers through FSA links / website?

A research database needs to be compiled, this will not be the actual papers but a list of what is available; gaps in research can then be identified.

Children and Nature Network apparently have lists of research – a link to be established with them

The FSA on-line forum could contain pages about why we should do research / how we go about doing research

Collective use of forum can help us share experiences.

It was discussed that Heads often don't know about FS and need to have easily digestible case studies they can access. This should be something for the wider FSA website rather than just a research section – case studies, best practice, good outcomes etc.

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