

EMBERS

LEARNING

COMMUNITY

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE FOUNDERS OF THE OUTDOOR LEARNING COMPANY



1 WELCOME NOTE

We at the Outdoor Learning Company are excited to welcome you to Embers Learning Community, which we hope will be the perfect companion to your home education journey.

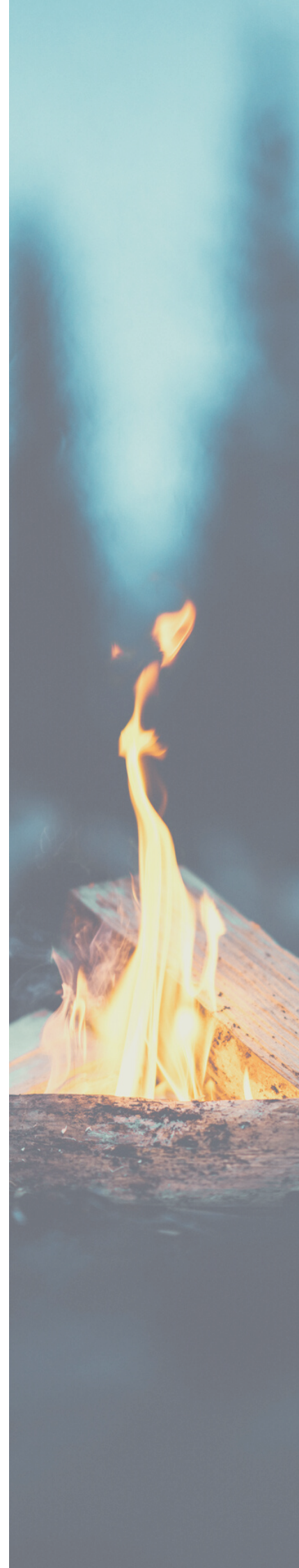
For the last 10 years we have spent time developing The Outdoor Learning Company, Increasing our pre-school provisions, holiday clubs and our home education Forest Schools across Hampshire. Stepping into the home education world has been a privilege and a very enjoyable journey over the years. One that Justin and his family enjoyed so much that their children never went to school.

We started as a Forest School Company, inspired by the training and ethos. Having a passion about children's education, child development, play and behaviour means that we are constantly learning. Because we have a passion, this is not just a job but an adventure, learning more & more along the way. Having learnt a lot about different approaches to learning through the years, undertaken courses, read many books, watched lots of documentaries, listened to podcasts hosted by experts, observed many different practitioners' styles, and most importantly spent thousands of hours with the individual children that make up groups in a range of different environments. We feel that there is something special we can offer the Home Education community, this has taken the form of Embers.

We hope that you enjoy reading about our approach in this prospectus and want to join us on this special journey. Together as a community we will evolve and grow as we embark on a truly exciting adventure.

Warmest wishes,

Justin & Ben



2 OUR VISION

Embers is a warm and welcoming environment where children can have fun, feel valued and empowered to become resilient, life long learners, equipped for the 21st century.

The aim of our community is to enable children to grow holistically, to experience joy and wonder, to have a sense of belonging.

The children learn through rich and diverse child-centred experiences, learning through curiosity, intentional play and time in nature. We hope they will learn skills and make memories that will last their lifetime.

With the support of adults and fellow learners, the children dive into cross curricular, project based activities, follow their passions and interests, taking responsibility for their learning in creative and imaginative ways.



3 OUR APPROACH

At Embers we take a child centred, holistic approach to learning, providing an environment and atmosphere which nurtures the mind, body and spirit through engaging activities, meaningful experiences and mutual respect.

Daily activities and experiences are built around 5 key areas: mind, body, spirit, environment and community. Some example activities and experiences include but not exclusive to:

Mind: Authentic opportunities for reading, writing & mathematics, journaling, drawing, puzzles, building, languages, literature, experiments, film making, animation, exploring, building, researching, debating & presenting.

Body: Running, walking, climbing, yoga, dance, sports, tool work, handiwork, team games, sewing.

Spirit: music, singing, creative arts, discussions, debates, poetry, meditation, imaginative play, celebration, performing, doing something you've been avoiding, working through disagreements.

Environment: creating inviting spaces, setting up activities, tidying, cleaning, fixing, gardening, cooking, baking, collecting resources & library books.

Community: co-operative games, board games, tell jokes, share stories, write letters & emails, offer help or service, celebrate, morning circle & reflection, guest workshops, visitors.



4 SHARING DAY

Celebration is an essential part of our learning community. Taking time to celebrate what is important to each of us, our achievements, our progress and to reflect on our journey together.

At the end of each term we hold a Sharing Day. A chance to gather the community, share food and celebrate all the wonderful work we have completed over the past term. This can take many shapes such as: exhibitions, performances, music, screening of films and animations, art work, posters, books, posters, sculptures, displays, food preparation, running a cafe and models. The children are in charge of planning, preparing and running the Sharing Days with support from the facilitators.

It is a chance to reflect on what went well and what we might do differently next term. To discuss the parts we each enjoyed and the parts not so much.

Sharing Day marks the end of a project, the end of a term and the beginning of something new. It is such a special part of the Embers experience for everyone involved.



5 WORLD READY

Our aim at Embers is to have children leave us with a thirst for learning, exploration and investigation.

The self confidence to ask questions and challenge ideas.

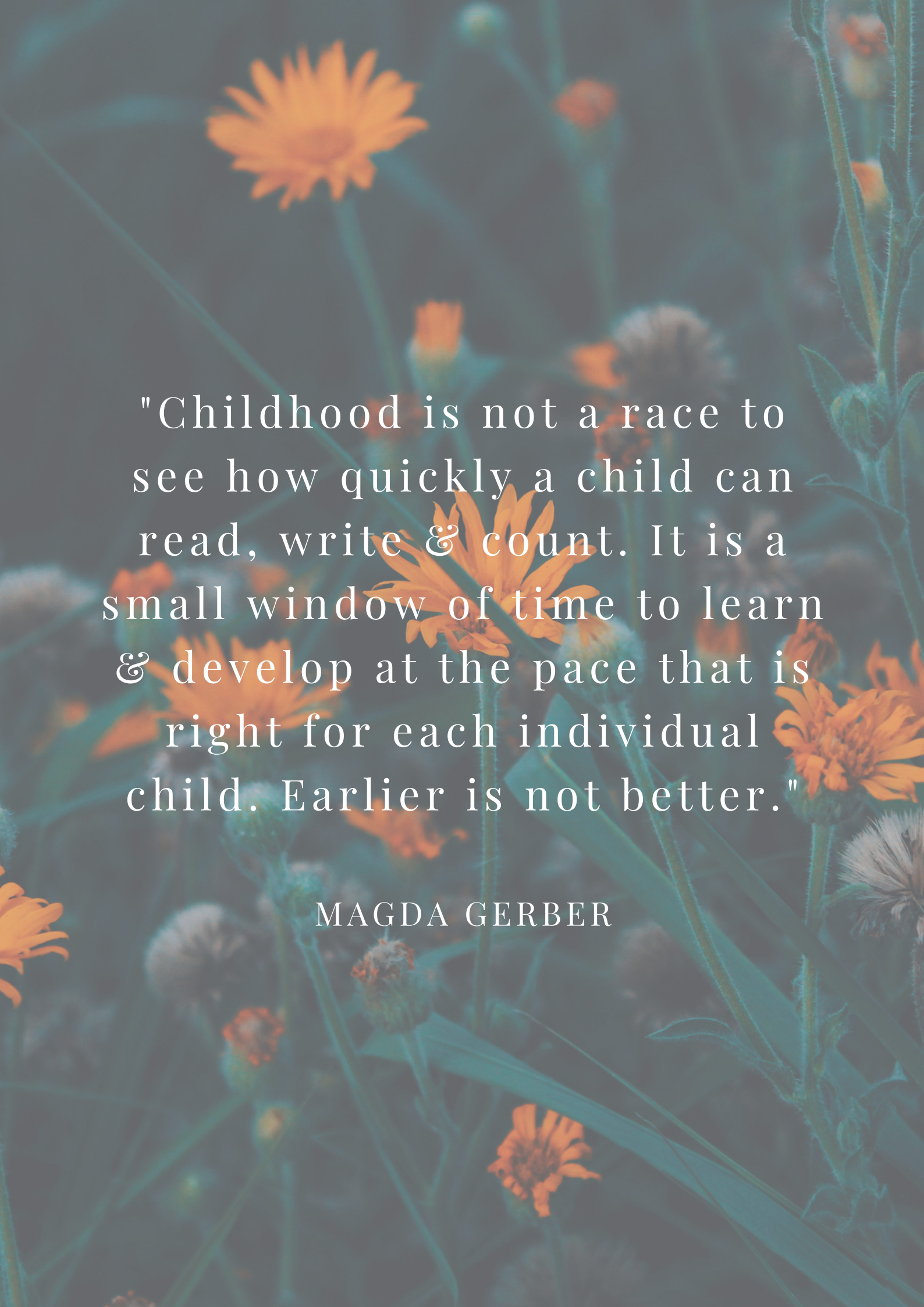
The social skills to make friends, work in groups and treat each other with respect.

The problem-solving skills needed to help with different challenges that lay ahead.

The self-regulation to control their own behaviour.

The understanding of their own emotions and those that others may experience and a physical durability for any challenges that lay ahead.





"Childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, write & count. It is a small window of time to learn & develop at the pace that is right for each individual child. Earlier is not better."

MAGDA GERBER

6 A DAY AT EMBERS

Each day at Embers is unique, naturally unfolding and woven together with rhythm. We have no set times apart from Arrival at 10.00am and home time at 3.30pm.

Rhythm Of The Day:

Morning arrival

Time to settle & Free Choice

Morning circle & snack

Project Time

*Snack, relaxation & outside play**

Free Choice

Lunch, relaxation & outside play

Afternoon Activities

Tidy Away

Reflection Circle

Home Time

By keeping the timings of the day child-centred and flexible, it provides opportunities to deep dive into activities, jump down rabbit holes of interests and provide extra time for rest, relaxation and play when needed.

Children are dropped off to spend the day at Embers, bringing with them a packed lunch, snack and drink. Warm layers and cosy slippers are useful too, along with coats and wellies if weather permits. The sessions are run by a team of Lead and Support Learning Facilitators who are DBS checked and first aid trained, each team member bringing with them a wide range of knowledge, experience and qualifications.

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**children can free-flow between inside and out throughout the day as long as an adult is outside.*



7 FEES

2021-2022

Introductory Price

Ending April 2022

Registration Fee- £50 which secures an offered place at Embers.

Per Session- £36

Fees will be paid in 12 monthly instalments of £117. This is based on one child, one day a week, starting in September. There will be a 10% discount applied to all siblings after the first child.



2022-2023

As Of April 2022

Registration Fee- £50 which secures an offered place at Embers.

Per Session- £40

Fees will be paid in 12 monthly instalments of £130. This is based on one child, one day a week.

There will be a 10% discount applied to all siblings after the first child.



"Children are born with all
the wonder they will need.
Our job is not to take
it away."

AINSLEY ARMENT



8 COMMUNITY DETAILS

Embers Learning Community is for Home Educating Children & is based in the pretty village of Copythorne, situated in The New Forest. With easy access from Bournemouth, Southampton, Winchester, Romsey & Salisbury, all within 30 minutes.

Our community is set on 3 acres of private land, with 3 indoor learning spaces, a large kitchen and plenty of onsite parking. We also run our Forest Preschool from this site, perfect for the younger children.



We run two days a week; Tuesdays & Thursdays, with the possibility of adding more days as we grow. Sessions are for children aged 5-13 years old (school years 1-8). We are currently developing an offering for 13-16 year olds.

Children can attend up to 2 days at Embers to supplement their home educating journey; unlike a school, the responsibility of the child's education remains with the parents or carers. The day starts at 10.00am & finishes at 3.30pm. We follow the Hampshire school terms, running 39 weeks a year.

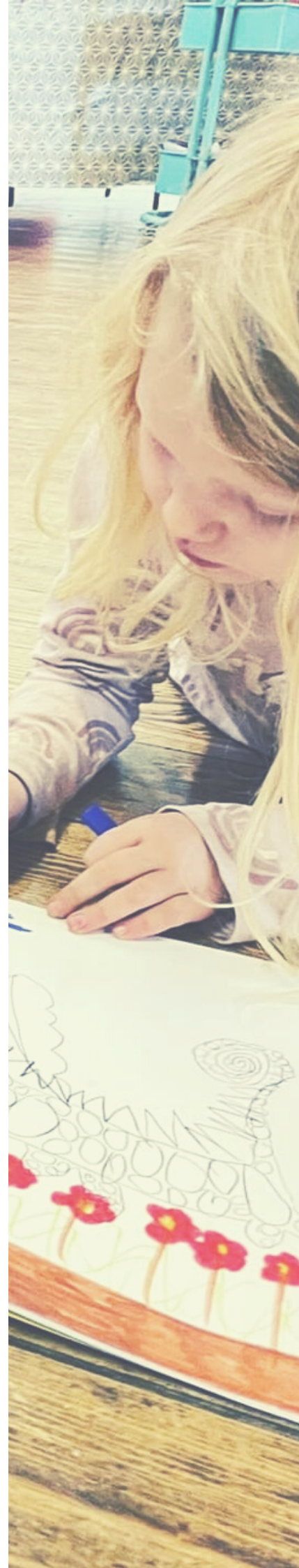
9 ENROLMENT

If you would like to join Embers Learning Community please email embers@theoutdoorlearningcompany.co.uk to start the process.

To ensure a good balance of ages on each day, places may be limited per age group. We value diversity and aim to support all children who want to attend Embers. We will make adjustments where possible in the circumstance, however group facilitators reserve the right to refuse a space to a child if they feel that they cannot support the child's needs properly.

If we can offer your child a place, a registration fee of £50 will be needed to secure it. A trial period of 4 weeks will then commence. If both the child, the parents/carers and group facilitators are happy with how the trial went, a monthly payment schedule will be set up and 4 notice will be required from there on if you want to leave. Our Lead Learning Facilitators are available to give feedback at drop off or pick up each week.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to get in touch.





"Children are not
things to be
moulded, but people
to be unfolded."

JESS LAIR

10 COMMUNITY COMMENTS

"Ask any Home Ed veteran parent what the most important thing they gave their children was and they won't necessarily tell you it was the freedom, or the amazing experiences, they'll tell you it was community. Growing up within a group of mixed aged children who all have such vastly different ideas and interests is how excitement and enthusiasm for new passions is sparked. What we learn from each other is immeasurable and that is what Embers offers... a chance to learn and grow into their individual selves while they are challenged, inspired and cheered for by their community.

My oldest home educated child is 15 and we've never been in school. My aim for the past 15 years was to inspire my children but also respond to their interests as quickly and actively as possible. I wanted them to be able to run with their passions and ideas, with a caring facilitator at their side guiding them along. Having multiple children and much younger siblings often makes that hard and I found frustration mounting for both my children and myself. Joining Embers meant welcoming in a team to my Home Ed journey that had the same ethos as me but all the time and resources I didn't to help me achieve my goal. My child comes home every week inspired. They work on their own ideas but are introduced to so many others that the whole family's life is richer for it. Sometimes you have an idea in your head of how Home Ed can be, the Embers team has made mine possible."

Adeola, New Forest

"I love Embers because of the freedom to be creative and have your own ideas. I love spending time with friends there and all the outside time together. The adults are amazing and it's not like school at all- it's better!"

Ethan aged 9 Bournemouth.



"Embers staff get to really know the children and embrace their interests and passions, whilst scaffolding the children to reach their full potential. I never thought my children would take part in a play, or be so genuinely enthusiastic about their projects! The balance between child-led and the rhythm of the day has been beautifully orchestrated to make children feel safe but free. Thank you Embers Team for making Tuesdays so special for my boys!"

Kate, Bournemouth

"We weren't sure how Embers would work out for our daughter as she can lack confidence sometimes but it has really been amazing for her. She has done things at Embers which she would never have tried before, I was especially amazed in the play put on at Sharing Day, she was incredibly proud of herself. It's such a lovely community for her to be part of and a great variety of activities she has been able to learn from with supportive adults and friends. She asks me all week how many days until Embers."

Sarah, Bournemouth.

"I love Embers because I have fun and see my friends. I feel comfortable."

Phoebe aged 8, Bournemouth

"What I love most about Embers is being creative all day and getting to choose if I want to play outside or in. There are always lots of different activities and I love that I get to choose for myself which one I want to do."

Gabe aged 10, New Forest

"My favourite part of the day at Embers is Project Time, where we work on our really cool projects to show our families on Sharing Days."

Agnes aged 10, New Forest



11 OUR OTHER SERVICES

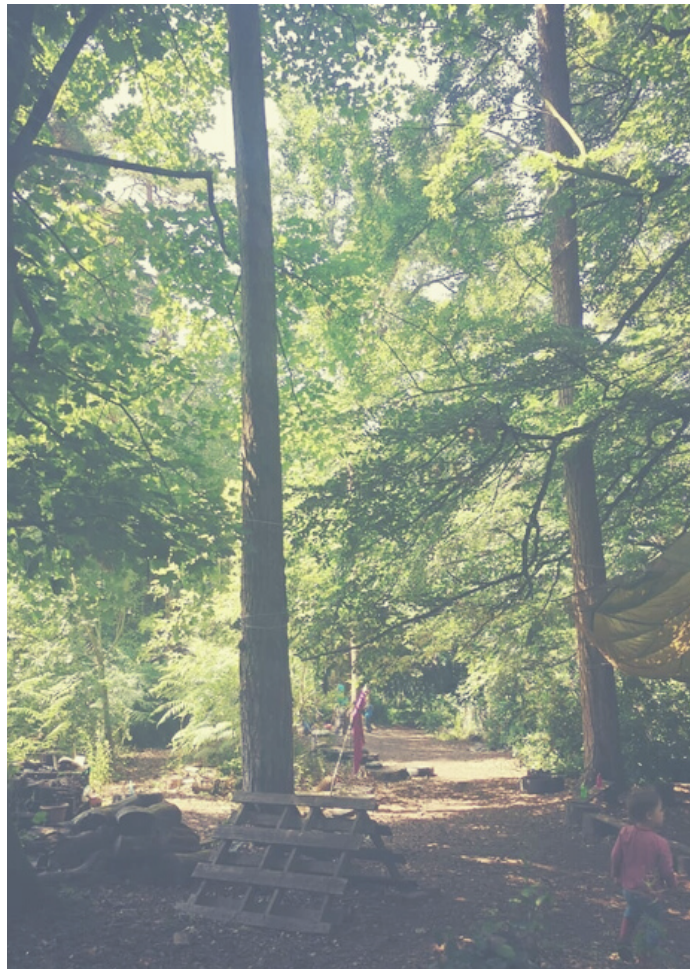
Outdoor Adventurers Home Ed Forest School Sessions: Hinton & Hamble.

The Forest Preschool & Nursery: Hinton & Copythorne.

Outdoor Adventurers Forest School Holiday Clubs: various locations.

Forest School Birthday Parties: Hinton.

Family Forest School Sessions: Hinton.



For more information on any of our services please visit www.theoutdoorlearningcompany.co.uk



