

Teaching Outside Doesn't Have to Be Scary!

As long as you do a bit of thinking ahead...

1. What do I need to bring?

Mostly just yourself, your class, and your lesson materials! But it is also wise to consider the following:

- Cell phone/walkie talkie
 - Follow your school's plan for safety, but make sure you can easily stay in touch.
- Medications
 - Some schools require students to have their medications (like an EpiPen) with them if they have outdoor allergies.
- Support staff?
 - Some schools require pairs of adults when children are outside. It's wise to see if this is a requirement at your school. However, don't let it stop you from getting students outdoors! This could be as easy as pairing up with another teacher and taking both classes outside together.
- Emergency Backpack
 - Many schools have an emergency backpack teachers take with them at fire drills, and in case of actual emergencies. These are also great for a quick trip outdoors! It usually has some band aids, a few other basic first aid items, and a class list. If you don't have one already, consider making one that is easy "grab and go" for these outdoor lessons!

2. I feel a bit out of control with such a big space. How do I help with that?

Set parameters ahead of time! Remember, you are just as much in charge of parameters outside as you are in the four walls of your classroom. "You may do your fieldwork anywhere between the large oak tree to our left (point to it) and the sidewalk to our right."

Having a whistle with you is an easy way to alert students they have wandered too far.

3. I want the students to use technology, but I'm not sure how this will work outside.

Great! Here are some things we've learned to help you overcome pitfalls:

- Just as you would in the classroom, teach the tech before you head outside!
- Cloudy days are best for screen-heavy activities. Sunny days make the screen hard to see.
- Don't rely on internet outside. Make sure apps will work offline ahead of time