

Can children learn wisdom in a forest preschool learning environment?

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Theoretical framework

This ongoing research explores whether **forests** can serve as a learning environment where **preschool-aged children** learn wisdom. Wisdom has been studied as part of adult development, and lately it has been found to be correlated with early childhood development as well. Wisdom is understood here as complex concept referring to socio-cognitive capacities, positive emotions, and ethical action. Also, there is already evidence that even preschoolers have their own understanding of **wisdom**.

The study explores various dimensions of wisdom appearing in children's

- daily plays
- learning activities
- routines

in a forest preschool learning environment. This research is based on the idea of 'phrónēsis', wisdom in practice.

Research design

Data are collected by means of

- observation and video recording in a group of preschoolers
- interviews and survey for professionals and parents

The examination of the dimensions of wisdom utilizes a wisdom model under progress, which is a synthesis of several previous models. It is now applied in the context of the activities of children of preschool age.

<https://ktl.jyu.fi/en/research/wisdom-learning/preschool-education-and-forest>



