



In the afternoon a group of preschool children arrived and the course participants supported them to safely explore their new surroundings. The group quickly began to explore the environment and learning across the whole curriculum was soon underway.

Exploring the landscape included climbing, balancing, digging and running - the children set their own challenges and the adults kept to the policy of 'safe enough' rather than 'as safe as possible'.



A debrief with tea and cakes ended a wonderful day. The practitioners went home with the confidence to bring their own groups to experience the fantastic landscape and heritage of the Northumberland coast.

Please see the Northumberland Learning Landscapes web site for further information

<http://ngfl.northumberland.gov.uk/NLL>

Northumberland Learning Landscapes INSET :

The Beach at Howick, April 2009.

The third in a series of 4, this INSET day provided a group of Early Years practitioners the opportunity to both develop their own knowledge about the beach environment in the morning and then to put those skills into practice with a group of 3-4 year olds in the afternoon.



On arrival, Richard Wood, Forest School Leader, took the group to the beach near Howick on the north Northumberland coast. He showed the group how to 'read' the sea, counting the frequency of the waves to help determine their power, interpret tide timetables and chose appropriate places on the beach to take groups of young children.

The practitioners discussed how to carry out risk assessments and minimise potential hazards of activities such as paddling and rock pooling. The group used picture cards to identify sea creatures, made sand sculptures and even discussed the usefulness of a packet of vinegar for a first aid treatment! (Do you know what it helps alleviate?)

