**FINCH Interview Topic Guide - Child Discussion Group**

**Preamble**

*[Sit the children around the Fire Circle. Introduce yourself and gather the names of the children].*

Thank you for taking part in the interview. We are interested in your views on Forest School and would like to ask you some questions about the Forest School sessions that you have been having. It will take around 20-30 minutes and you don’t have to answer the questions if you don’t want to.

During our discussion please can we follow some rules, don’t talk over each other if we can help it; let each other speak and take it in turns. It may be that you liked forest school or that you didn’t like it and that’s fine, as it’s OK to have different views. Even if your classmates have a different opinion to you, we still want to hear from you so please don’t be shy to tell us what you really thought. You can answer whichever questions you want to. There are no right or wrong answers. Do you have any questions for me before we start?

We have a form here called an assent form, if you want to take part in the interview can you please complete this form. *[Hand out the forms].* Your teacher or I can help you if you get stuck. *[Collect assent forms back in]*

There are some rules we need to follow when sitting around a fire circle, please stay seated, tie your hair up if you have long hair, and don’t cross the boundary in the middle of the fire circle. *[Any additional rules will be checked with the school]*

I don’t have a good memory, so I need to use a recorder *[show them the recorder]*, so I can remember what you have all told me. Can I just double check that you are all ok with having your voice recorded?

If Yes, **SWITCH ON RECORDER**

**Views about Forest School**

1. Before you started your Forest School sessions, how much did you play outside during the school day?

*[Prompt: Why? What for? How did that make you feel?]*

1. *Who liked some things about Forest School? [show of hands]\**
   1. *What did you like about Forest School?*
   2. *What was your favourite activity to do? Why?*
2. *Who didn’t like some things about Forest School [show of hands]\**
   1. *What didn’t you like about Forest School?*
   2. *What was your least favourite activity to do? Why?*

*\*If nobody puts their hand up, continue to offer a. and b. questions to the group instead.*

**Feelings:**

1. *How did you feel when you were doing Forest School?*

**If silence could use picture prompts of multiple feelings**

1. Thinking about your Forest School sessions, can you tell me about anything you may be proud of? Why are you proud of that?
2. Can you tell me about anything new you might have learnt in Forest School? Tell me a bit about whether you were able to use what you learned in other classes or at home?
3. Talk me through whether you think Forest School has helped you? How?

*[Prompt: What aspect has helped you, for example, spending time outside, at home, at school, with your friends/family?]*

1. Before you started Forest School how important was nature to you?
2. Now that you’ve done Forest School, has it changed what you think about nature? How?

**Scenario:**

* 1. *If another child who didn’t have Forest School at their school asked you to tell them about it, what would you say?*

**And/or**

* 1. *Describe Forest School in three words*

1. *[Firstly, ask the teacher if they will be continuing Forest School. If the sessions are ending, ask the children]:* How do you feel about Forest School sessions ending? If not ending, ask how they would feel if Forest school was stopped.

**Views about data collection**

1. We asked you to complete some questions for us. What did you think about those?

*[Prompt: How easy or hard was it? Did the questions make sense/ did you understand them? How often (if at all) did you have to ask an adult for help? Talk me through whether you completed them on your own or with other children on your table?]*

**Ending the interview**

* Is there anything else that you would like to say?
* So just to summarise [paraphrase what they liked and disliked about Forest School], is there anything else you would like to tell me about what you liked or disliked about Forest School?
* Do you have any questions for me?

**Thank you very much for talking to us today. You were all great! [say appropriate aspect that they did well to make it labelled praise e.g. you all answered my questions/ you shared your honest opinion etc…]**

**SWITCH OFF RECORDER**