**Educational Visits**

**Structure of a Typical Day**

One of the real benefits of visiting Rodley Nature Reserve is that we teach the children in small groups. Each group will be accompanied by two of the Reserve's volunteers to introduce them to the various habitats thus enhancing the learning experience.

Please divide your class into 3 groups of approx. 8-10 children before your visit. At least one member of staff must be responsible for supervising each group of children at all times during the visit. Parents are also welcome to join groups and help children. Staff will be responsible for: -

* The behaviour of the children
* Medical needs, including inhalers, antihistamines, epi-pens etc. Each group leader should have a small first aid kit for dealing with minor injuries e.g. wipes and plasters. (A full medical kit and Accident Book is available at the Visitor Centre)
* Maintaining a list of children in their care in case of fire or another emergency

**At approx.9.45am** your group will be met at the swing bridge over the Leeds & Liverpool Canal and given a brief introductory talk including general health and safety requirements. Packed lunches will be taken directly to the Visitor Centre.

A guided walk around the Reserve will take up to lunchtime – this will include a brief history of the area and change of land use over time, comparison of river to canal, visit to bird hides and different wetland habitats, dragonfly conservation area and wildflower meadows.

As the Reserve is explored, children are provided with ‘sticky boards’ to help them focus on the environment around them by creating their own picture from items of interest found on the walk – leaves, grasses, feathers, discarded snail shells etc.

**12.00pm Lunch** – this is usually eaten outside at the picnic benches or if the weather is inclement, in the Visitor Centre. Hot drinks are available for staff. Bin liners are provided for rubbish and children should be encouraged to leave the area litter free. A large grass area next to the Visitor Centre is available for the children to play on at lunch time.

**12.45pm Start Activities** -we undertake 3 activities each lasting approx. 30 mins.

**2.00pm – 2.30pm** - gather on the lawn outside the Visitor Centre (inside if inclement) to summarise the day, answer any questions, feedback and farewell.