



**'Rich Experiences are one
of the Keys to Success'**

Thursday 3rd October 2019



The big questions...

What are rich learning experiences?

Engagement and impact.



The big questions...

***Why* are rich experiences so important for success?**

KS1 Expectations in Reading:

Katje the Windmill Cat



Katje had an easy life. She lived with Nico the miller in a Dutch village by the sea. While Nico ground grain in his windmill, Katje chased mice. Up and down the ladders she prowled, searching behind sacks of grain and along beams dusty with flour. "Every miller needs a cat like Katje," Nico told the villagers who came to buy his flour.

At night Katje slept on a soft pillow beside Nico in the house by the mill. On Sundays they walked along the dike that protected the village from the sea. Katje chased seagulls. Nico watched for storms.

KS2 Expectations in Reading:

Then, in 2005, a team of scientists unearthed thousands of dodo bones in some mud flats in Mauritius. The remains date back to over 4,000 years ago, when the island was suffering from a lengthy drought. The mud flats would have formed a freshwater oasis in an otherwise parched environment. It is thought that most of the animals, while trying to reach the slowly receding waters of the lake, became stuck and died of thirst or suffocation. However, clearly some dodos survived as they did not become extinct until much later.

This discovery is helping to rehabilitate the image of this much-ridiculed bird. The very fact that the dodo was still alive and well on Mauritius 4,000 years after a drought that claimed the lives of thousands of animals is an indication of the bird's ability to survive. The remains are also helping scientists to find out more about the anatomy of the dodo, for example that it was a much slimmer bird than any pictures suggest.



Museums

- **Natural History Museum**
A mammoth dinosaur in the cathedral-like hallway greets you at the [Natural History Museum](#). From dinosaurs, to wildlife, to the Earth Galleries, this museum is another family favourite. Children can enjoy the special hands on exhibits and explore further with the Discover Guide activity packs.



- **Science Museum**

[London's Science Museum](#) hosts six floors of exhibits on energy, environment, space, and transport, which makes it an ideal location for a day-long visit. Hands-on galleries for children of all ages, as well as the IMAX 3D cinema and 3D simulators (extra charge) add an extra dimension of fun for older children.



- **Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A)**

Exhibits at the [V&A Museum](https://www.vam.ac.uk) includes exhibits dedicated to fashion, jewellery, and furniture, both ancient and modern. Saturdays and school holidays are the best times for families to visit to experience gallery plays and workshops.

- Grab a **free kids' activity** backpack containing jigsaw puzzles, stories, construction games, and things to handle related to the exhibits. Family trail packs, which help explore the museum through puzzles, drawings, and observation games, are also available throughout the week.



- **Museum of London**

The [Museum of London](#) is packed with exhibits related to London through the ages.

- **Family bingo sheets and activity bags**, as well as the [SCVNGR](#) hunt **smartphone game** (where you answer questions, find objects, and take photos to win points) can be used to enhance your visit.
- On Sundays and school holidays, the museums host special family activities such as workshops, storytelling, and drama.



- **British Museum**

The most visited museum in the UK, the [British Museum](#) is home to world-famous exhibits. It's the perfect place for families to explore world history.

- **Free activity backpacks and activity trails are available every day for younger visitors to get a deeper understanding of the world's cultures.**
- Special holiday, weekend workshops and family events make this a great place to spend one or several hours.



- **Imperial War Museum**

The [Imperial War Museum](#) tells the stories of those whose lives have been shaped by war, from the First World War to the present day.

- Family multimedia guides take children on a fascinating journey though both world wars, telling the human stories behind the objects on display.



- **Horniman Museum**
- The Horniman Museum has a traditional natural history gallery – dominated by a bizarre, overstuffed walrus – where the exhibits are displayed in traditional cases with no computer touch-screens in sight.
- There's also a state-of-the-art aquarium, a collection of around 1,600 musical instruments and an area where visitors can play some of them, as well as a permanent gallery dedicated to African, Afro-Caribbean and Brazilian art.



Galleries

- **Tate Galleries**

The two London-based [Tate Galleries](#) are located on the north and south sides of the River Thames. Tate Britain features British art both historic and modern, while Tate Modern is home to a large collection of modern art.

- Family multimedia guides are available every day. Art trollies, which encourage kids to imagine and explore with paper-based activities, are a nice addition on the weekends and during the school holidays.



- **The National Gallery**

The weekend is the best time to head to the [National Gallery](#) in Trafalgar Square.

On Saturdays, there are hands-on family workshops for those with children ages 6 to 12, and on Sundays, you can catch the two-hour art workshops for children ages 5 to 11, as well as the under 5 storytelling sessions.





Greenwich Royal Museums

- Explore the **National Maritime Museum**, the world's largest maritime museum. Exhibits include the uniform Nelson was wearing when he was fatally shot at the Battle of Trafalgar, and a dynamic audio-visual installation that tells the stories of British voyagers. As you move throughout the museum, you can “virtually” collect objects that interest you by inserting the museum's Compass Card into dedicated units placed in the galleries, then follow up in the Compass Lounge or at home to reveal hidden stories.
- Contemplate the universe at the **Royal Observatory**, home of the Greenwich meridian, the official starting point of each day. Unravel the mysteries of the cosmos in the interactive astronomy galleries, try your hand at being an astronomer, and get answers to the big questions from on-screen experts. **The likely highlight for kids will be being able to touch a 4.5 billion year-old meteorite!**
- Art lovers can admire **The Queen's House** fine art collection, while those with more scientific tastes will enjoy the geometric elements in the architecture of the house, including the first geometric self-supporting spiral stair in Britain, the Tulip Stairs. Fans of the supernatural can find out the truth behind the Queen's House ghost.

Parks and Gardens

- **Kensington Gardens**

Situated next to Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens is home to the amazing [Diana, Princess of Wales' Memorial Playground](#), complete with a huge pirate ship covered with climbing, crawling, and dangling kids. The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain, a shallow stone ring of trickling water, is also popular for wading.



- **Brockwell Park, Herne Hill**
- The playground in Brockwell Park is a favourite, with its aerial slide, massive sandpit and sections for different age groups; nearby are the duck ponds and the paddling pool, BMX track and basketball court.



Crystal Palace Park

- Children going through the dinosaur phase always enjoy a visit to 'the monsters' - five dinosaur sculptures that lurk among the trees around the lake of the 80 hectare Crystal Palace Park. The tech savvy can download the Crystal Palace Park Dinosaurs app for an audio guide around the 700-metre monster trail.



Kentish Town City Farm

- Tucked in and around the railway, a treasure trove of **wildlife** unfolds as you explore: goats romp under brick arches, sheep bleat over the whirring of nearby trains and frogs croak in a lively pond. Children are at the heart of the free-to-enter farm, with a range of weekend workshops, an under-fives activity room and a dedicated team of local young volunteers.





In and
around
Surrey...



Bird watching at Frensham Little Pond

- Around the pond you can spot many common and rare birds, such as reed bunting, sedge warbler and great crested grebe, as well as nightjars and woodlarks.
- There are damselflies and dragonflies darting over the glistening water in warmer months, and the banks of the pond are fringed with a multitude of yellow iris, purple loose-strife and common reeds. Open daily.



A walk in Windsor Great Park

- A perfect place for picnics, walking, cycling and horse riding.
- A footpath map of the park is available from the Royal Windsor Information Centre.
- Free entry and free parking along the A332. Open daily.





Cycle around Alice Holt Forest in Farnham

- The large woodland has adventure play areas, natural play, safe off-road family cycling and lots of space to create dens, not to mention homemade cakes for after the adventure (food in the café is not free).
- Come rain or shine you can have a great day out with the family.
- Open daily.





All aboard the ship at Priory Park

Reigate:

- There is a fantastic children's play area with sand and water features and a huge wooden ship.
- For sports fans, there are four tennis courts, a skatepark, cricket square, croquet lawn, football pitches and multiuse games area.
- There are also beautiful formal gardens, a lake and woodland.





Outdoor adventure at Lightwater Country Park

- Let the kids run wild on the playing fields, in the play park and in the woods.
- It's also a great place to feed the ducks and enjoy a picnic.
- Don't forget to bring the dogs too as they are welcome.
- Free parking.
- Open all year.





Run down Box Hill

- Forming part of the North Downs, Box Hill is a perfect place to discover a family walk and explore the beautiful Surrey Hills.
- It may be a National Trust site, but entry is free.
- Enjoy self-guided trails to spot abundant wild life, from butterflies and mini beasts to colourful wild flowers.





Visit Guildford Castle

- After a wander around the shops, wander around the beautiful castle grounds located right in the town centre.
- The castle is thought to have been built shortly after the 1066 invasion of England by William the Conqueror.





Explore Chobham Common

- As the largest National Nature Reserve in the south east of England, the site is great for birdwatching, butterflies, stunning views, walking and wildflowers.
- Cattle graze the open heath in the summer.
- Free parking. Dogs allowed.





Spot deer at Bushy Park

- Red and Fallow Deer still roam freely throughout the park, just as they did when Henry VIII used to hunt here.
- Don't miss the rutting season in the autumn.





The Lightbox, Woking

- The Woking Lightbox gallery and museum features two free, permanent exhibitions. Whilst the Art Fund Prize Gallery displays modern artwork, the exhibition of Woking's Story covers the history of the town.





WWF UK The Living Planet Centre, Woking

- WWF Living Planet Centre in Woking is one of the greenest buildings in the UK and was opened by David Attenborough in 2013. Once inside, you can discover the secrets of the natural world and immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the wild through four interactive zones. Following a wildlife theme, each zone explores a different aspect of nature with the help of engaging films.





Closer to home...

- Alexandra Recreation Ground
- Auriol Park
- Bourne Hall Park
- Chessington Road Recreation Ground
- Court Recreation Ground
- Elizabeth Welchman Gardens
- Ewell Court Park
- Gibraltar Recreation Ground
- Hook Road Arena
- London Road Recreation Ground
- Long Grove Park
- Mounthill Gardens
- Nonsuch Park
- Poole Road Recreation Ground
- Rosebery Park
- Shadbolt Park
- The Warren
- Upper and Lower Mill