Fact Sheet 1

What did Anglo-Saxon boys and girls do?... during the day...

looking after animals

Anglo-Saxon boys and girls would look after all the different animals in the settlement.

These animals included cows, sheep, chickens, goats and horses.

collecting wool and spinning

Anglo-Saxon girls were too young to weave the cloth that their clothes were made out of. So they would help the older girls and women by collecting wool from the sheep and goats and spinning it to make yarn.

chopping wood and building the hearth fire

The hearth was the main fire inside Anglo-Saxon houses. It was used for cooking, heating and providing light. It was very important that this fire was kept burning all day.

Boys and girls would chop the firewood for the hearth and check that the fire was burning well.

Look for evidence of all these activities on the 'Anglo Saxon Discovery ' web site.

preparing food

Boys and girls would collect grain to grind into flour, which would then be baked into bread.
In the morning they would help prepare the day's main meal (usually stew) as well as collect eggs and make cheese or butter.

hunting and fighting training

As the boys grew older they would start their training in hunting and fighting. The men in the settlement would teach them how to use a bow and arrow, axes and swords.

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