

Outdoor ideas for learning at home with young children

Thursday 21st May 2020 is Outdoor Classroom day, which we have participated in in previous years. As most of us are at home, we have listed some suggestions that you can try!

We look forward to seeing your outdoor fun on Tapestry so we can celebrate Outdoor Classroom day from afar!

Websites

- <http://naturedetectives.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/>
- <https://outdoorclassroomday.org.uk/resources/>
- <https://www.naturallylearning.co.uk/50-outdoor-activities-toddlers/>
- <https://muddyfaces.co.uk/outdoor-hub/>

Dandelion Bingo

Can you find dandelions from all stages of their lifecycle?



Make a boat

You could find a river, or use a bowl outside to make a boat



Hand Wash

You could wash your car, your scooter or bike, or even your windows!



Nature Butterfly

Cut some cardboard into a butterfly border shape (or any shape you prefer!) and stick some tape across the wings – Go on a walk and stick your nature treasures to it



Whittling Sticks

Using a potato peeler, whittle the bark of a stick. You could whittle the whole stick, or just the tip, to make it into a peg. You could even decorate your stick once it is whittled.



Leaf Sewing

Find a large leaf, a needle and some thread and sew around the edge of your leaf. You could do lots and attach them together to make a chain of leaves! You can always hole punch some holes and thread some string through if you don't have a needle at home



1,2,3 Where are you?

This is similar to hide and seek, but played outside.

One person counts to 5 or 10, the others run off. The person counting says **'1,2,3, where are you?'** The people hiding say **'1,2,3, I'm over here!'** and run back as quickly as they can!

You can extend this with the hiders continuing to hide and the seeker has to find them listening to their call of **'1,2,3 I'm over here!'**



Extra Outdoor Ideas

- Bubble blowing – create bubble wands out of pipe cleaners
- Large paper outside - create marks to music, create a road for toy cars, draw a village – follow your child's interests
- Building a den – plan, design and create
- Ball games – throw and catch, football, aiming at a target, skittles (use plastic bottles or cans from the kitchen)
- Water painting outside - use a container and a brush or roller (if you have one!)
- Beanbag races – can use a bag of rice, or a pillow!
- Chalk!
- Listening walk – compare busy with quiet (eg walking in a park or near the road) Draw what you hear
- Create a nature diary – go to the same place and record what you see and how it is changing (you can take a photo, draw a picture or write about it)
- Nature treasure hunt – use an empty egg box to collect items – use these for sorting, storytelling, making faces or own creations
- Flower crowns – Stick natural objects to a piece of paper
- Bird hunt – use the bird finder sheet from the website
- Make a nest – what could you use?
- Magic wands – elastic bands to tie natural items to a stick
- Potion or perfume making – petals, water, mud, bowls, spoons – explore!
- Leaf snap – cut some leaves from different trees in half and find the matching ones
- Make a fairy garden or an animal home
- Make a rain collector – measure the rainfall!
- Go puddle jumping!
- Find a hill – climb to the top and roll down – or slide!
- Stick hunt – collect sticks, compare size, length, width, what will they become?
- Climb a tree
- Go on a bear hunt, or to look for the Gruffalo!
- Bug hunt – what can you find?
- Washing toys – create a car wash, bath babies
- Colour mixing with coloured ice cubes
- Target practice with spray bottles