

Outside activities

Hold a Boat Race -

You will need: Paper to make flag
Lolly stick
Sticky tape
Plastic tray (the sort pre-packed vegetables come it)



Place the boats in a paddling pool and blow on the sails to race them

Build a den

Everyone likes dens - even grown ups. Please don't break down trees or branches but look for loose stuff lying around. Find a few tall strong poles and arrange them into a wigwam shape. Collect bracken, smaller branches and twigs that are lying around and lay them against the wigwam until it is covered up, except for an opening. Start with a small den to see how you get on.

Garden chairs/furniture can be used to make a den. You can use old sheets to make wigwams. It's fun to decorate them afterwards with paints and felt pens. Washing line pegs are great for attaching things.

Outdoor Water play

Materials: Look around your house and you will find a selection of items your children can use to have fun with water - outdoor toys and equipment, sponges, shallow dishes of soapy water, spray bottles, plastic bottles, funnels, plastic beakers, washing up bowls, paint brushes and seaside buckets are just a few of the things you can use for outside water play.

Place many shallow bowls containing soap and water outside and give each child a sponge. Promote sharing and cooperation as the children work together, washing outdoor toys and equipment.

A spray bottle filled with water can provide hours of fun. Add chalks, a sponge and a paint brush and watch an artist at work. If you haven't got a spray bottle, make your own watering can out of an old plastic bottle.



Painting plant pots and pebbles

Collect some large pebbles and let your children's artistic flare takeover as they paint them in lovely bright colours.



Make a pebble picture

Collect small pebbles or stones and arrange them into a picture on the ground. You could also decorate with shells, flowers, moss, and other things you find lying around

Fun with cardboard boxes

We all know children love to play with cardboard boxes. From a train to a castle and a secret tunnel to a robot or plane, with some string, sticking tape, glue, masking tape and a pile of waste packaging let the fun begin.

Simply painting big boxes is fun too, or try:



- Make your own binoculars and go on a bug hunt
- Make your own bugs
- Egg Box Spider



Treasure Hunt

Use this to encourage group cooperation, problem solving, following directions, thinking and reasoning.

Materials: Small plastic gold coins, inexpensive beaded necklaces, small rings, play money, and a treasure box decorated by the children. A map for the children to follow. This can be just a series of picture clues for younger children to follow.

Finally when the children come to the place where the treasure is buried or hidden, they will open it and take turns sharing the treasure inside.

Nature Rubbing Books

You will need: Lightweight paper, old crayons without the wrappers. Encourage the children to place paper over outdoor objects such as tree trunks, fences, leaves etc. and rub with crayons.



Make a bird cake



Give the birds in your garden a winter treat by making them some bird cake to eat. **WARNING:** Bird seed often has nuts included so avoid this activity if you have a nut allergy.

What you'll need

- Fat - use suet or lard (85g)
- Birdseed
- A handful of raisins
- A handful of peanuts
- Some grated cheese – optional
- Bread crumbs
- Bowls and wooden spoons
- Yoghurt pots with holes in the bottom threaded with string

What to do

1. Put the fat in a bowl and leave in a warm place to soften, near a radiator will work.
2. Place all the other ingredients into a big bowl.
3. Chop up the fat into small pieces and add to the other ingredients in the bowl. You can mix them together using a wooden spoon or your fingers.
4. Ask a grown up to make a hole in the bottom of a clean yoghurt pot. Double the string, tie a knot at the end and thread through the hole so that the knot is on the inside and the loop is outside the pot.
5. Put the mixture into the yoghurt pot or make into balls. Put the bird cake into the fridge to set. And then hang it in your garden for the birds to enjoy