

# At home with childminders and parents

More creative and fun ideas to support your child's learning  
that are linked to our theme of **‘WILD PLAY’**

## Natural art

- Press leaves and flowers between sheets of kitchen paper in a heavy book. When they are completely dry, stick them to pretty coloured card to make a collage.
- Set up a little nature table for outdoor ‘finds’ such as feathers, interesting pebbles, leaves and flowers. Help your child to write labels for each find.
- Make a twig tree by sticking twigs into a pot filled with modelling dough. Tape a loop of string to items to make hanging decorations – or tie on pressed leaves and crumpled tissue paper to make blossoms.
- Paint pebbles and, when they are dry, brush with slightly diluted PVA glue to make a shiny glaze. Stick felt on the bottom to create a paperweight.

## The wild outdoors

- Set your child little outdoor challenges while out on a walk, such as; *Run to the tree before I count to ten*, and so on.
- Help your child to develop their writing skills by drawing patterns in damp sand. Use old pencils or lolly sticks and try creating waves, loops, zigzags and lines.
- Make signs and notices for your garden or to label plant pots. Glue to lolly sticks and push into the soil.
- A garden or outdoor area is great for big, messy paintings. Use the back of wallpaper sheets and try making prints with feet and wellies using paint.

## Wildlife habitats

- Look out for minibeasts, such as spiders, worms and woodlice, in the garden, the park or even indoors. Study them and talk about them with your child.
- Sprinkle some bird seed on a window ledge or garden area and observe and count the birds that visit.
- Visit the library with your child and ask the librarian to help you find books on wildlife that are suitable for your child's age and interests.
- Make a butterfly life cycle picture. Draw and cut out an egg on a leaf, a caterpillar, a chrysalis and a butterfly and stick them in a circle on a piece of paper. Write simple captions and arrows to show the insect's progression.

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