



In the Garden Week

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What you will need:

- Strong paper (You need the strongest paper you can find as it needs to be able to cope with getting wet from the rain)
- Watercolour paints
- Paint brushes
- Something to hold your paper in place (some rocks for example)
- The most important part, you need a rainy day.



Art using rain

Rainy days can be so boring as you have to stay inside and can't play out, for this activity we are trying to make rainy days more fun. Why don't you try the activity below if your stuck in on a rainy day!

To start with you need to get your extra strong paper and your watercolours ready, paint a pattern on your paper it can be any design you like, try spacing the colours out or placing them really close together to see what sort of creations you get. Be generous with the amount of paint you use and try to keep them more liquid, the important part to remember is to put your paper outside while your watercolours are still wet and use something to weigh your paper down. Now you can wait and watch as the rain falls it will splash and change your colours. What other patterns or colours could you use to create different effects?



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Carton Bird Feeder



What you'll need:

- A carton to create our bird feeder
- Paint/Pens to decorate our carton
- String to hang up the bird feeder
- Scissors to cut the holes so the birds can feed.
- Bamboo Skewer– for the perch
- Bird seed– to put in once you have finished!

- Clean out your carton
- Once clean– decorate and mark out where everything is going to be– **don't forget the door so the birds can get in to eat!**
- Once decorated cut out the door—ask for an adults help if you need to!
- Then pop the Skewer through to create a perch either side– ask for adults help again if need be!
- Tie on a string
- Add your bird feed
- Hang up and watch the bird eat!

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Clay Critters

Resources-

- Clay
- Google eyes
- Leaves
- Sticks
- Feathers
- Beads
- Any other materials you would like to add

Instructions-

- 1) Grab a piece of clay with your hand.
- 2) You can now shape it into whatever critter you want, any shape or size.
- 3) Stick on your materials (googly eyes, feathers, beads, sticks etc) to complete your critter!





Go play Sandwell



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Fun Garden Facts



Do you know why plants are green? It's because they have chlorophyll, which helps them make their food. Everything that has chlorophyll in it is green.

Soil with lots of worms in it doesn't flood easily after heavy rain because the water drains away thanks to all the worm holes.

A teaspoonful of good soil holds more than one million living things.

Ever wondered why the caterpillar of the cabbage white butterfly is green? It's because it makes it harder for the birds to see them on the green leaves.

Have you met an Oligochaetologist? That's another name for a worm expert!

Photosynthesis is a chemical process that takes place in a leaf's cells. Sunlight mixes with water, soil nutrients and carbon dioxide to make food for the plant.

Because bees help pollinate flowers and plants, they are responsible for the existence of many flowers.

Insects are very important to a garden. They help to transfer the pollen from plant to plant.

Plants can drown if there's no air in the soil.

Earthworms are very important to any garden. They work hard at keeping our soil clean by pulling down organic material and recycling it into fresh nutrient filled soil.

Garden Nature Faces

Resources:

- Leaves
- Stones
- Sticks

Instructions:

- Explore your garden to see what nature based items you can find.
- Once you have found your items, see if you can create a face!





Garden Relay Races

Instructions:

- See if you can find items in your garden to create a start and finish line. E.g. 2 sticks.
- Experiment with different movements from the start line to the finish.
- Movements could include-
- Jumping/hopping/skipping/running/sidesteps/hopscotch/star jumps.



Grass Heads

Resources-

- Old pair of tights
- Googly eyes
- Elastic band or ribbon/thread
- Flower pot
- Red pipe cleaner
- Grass seeds
- Compost (can use earth from the garden)
- Scissors
- PVA Glue

Instructions-

- 1) Put your hand inside the tights and open up the top.
- 2) Put in two tablespoons worth of grass seeds into your tights (make sure these settle in the bottom of your tights)
- 3) Now, add your compost on top of your grass seeds (make sure the compost settles in the bottom of your tights again and keep adding until you had a good size ball).
- 4) Then pull your tights so they are tight around the compost and seeds and squeeze the opening of the tights together so you can turn your compost and seeds upside down, without them falling out.
- 5) Use your scissors to cut away the rest of the tights (leaving a little bit of spare material attached so you can tie the compost in)
- 6) Tie a knot with the spare material (so your compost doesn't fall out).
- 7) Choose where you want the face and pinch some of the material and tie an elastic band round it to make the nose.
- 8) Use your PVA glue to stick on the googly eyes above the nose.
- 9) Cut your red pipe cleaner so it is a suitable size for your mouth and use the PVA glue to stick this on underneath the nose.
- 10) Now, put your grass head in your flower pot, ready for you to water and grow your grass!





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How to make a bird feeder



You will need:

- Plastic drinks bottle
- String
- Bird feed – including fruit and nesting materials
- Scissors

What to do:

1. Clean the bottle to make sure there isn't anything harmful inside for the birds.
2. Make a few small holes in the bottom of your feeder to allow rainwater to drain away.
3. Cut a large hole in the side of the bottle to allow a free flow of seeds, but make sure it isn't too big as the wind may cause it to blow out.
4. In order to hang the homemade bird feeder from a tree, cut the right length of string so it will be able to hang freely. Tie this piece of string to the neck of the bottle.
5. Fill the bird feeder with all sorts of treats such as fruit, nesting materials and string.
6. Finally hang it on the tree for all to see and for birds to enjoy!

How to make a bug hotel



You will need:

- 2 plastic drinks bottles
- String
- Twigs and branches
- Scissors

What to do:

1. Clean the bottle to make sure there isn't anything harmful inside for the bugs.
2. Cut off both ends of the two plastic bottles and discard, so you are left with two cylinders that are open at each end.
3. Make a small hole in the side of each cylinder that will be big enough to feed a piece of string through.
4. Cut two lengths of string and tie a knot at the end of each piece.
5. Take the end of a piece of string (without the knot) and feed it through the cylinder hole, from the inside. Repeat with the other cylinder. This is so you can hang your bug hotel.
6. Stuff the cylinders full of twigs, branches, pinecones and broken pots until it is full and tightly packed
7. Make a loop at the top of the string and hang from a shed, tree or wall.

In the Night Garden Quiz - How many can you answer correctly?

Q1. What colour is Iggle Piggle's Blanket?

- a) red b) green
c) blue d) yellow

Q2. How many Tomblions are there?

- a) 5 b) 4 c) 3 d) 2

Q3. Where does Makka Pakka sleep?

- a) in the cave b) in a bed
c) in the Ninky Nonk d) In a tree

Q4. What is the Ninky Nonk?

- a) a car b) a plane
c) a bus d) a train

Q5. What does Makka Pakka like to do to the Ninky Nonk?

- a) clean it b) paint it
c) chase it d) ignore it

Q6. What colour shoes does Upsy Daisy have?

- a) red b) green
c) pink d) yellow

Q7. What instrument does Makka Pakka play?

- a) trumpet b) tambourine
c) guitar d) recorder

Q8. What is Makka Pakka's trolley called?

- a) OG-OG b) Pog
c) Pog-og d) Og-Pog

Q9. What is the Pinky Ponk?

- a) Air ship b) tree
c) bicycle d) flower

Q10. What colour are the Pontipines?

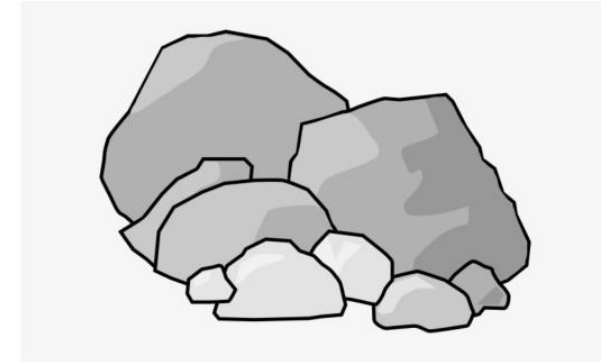
- a) green b) pink
c) red d) blue



Answers:
Q1. a) red
Q2. c) 3
Q3. a) in a cave
Q4. d) a train
Q5. a) clean it
Q6. c) pink
Q7. a) trumpet
Q8. d) Og-Pog
Q9. a) Air ship
Q10. c) red

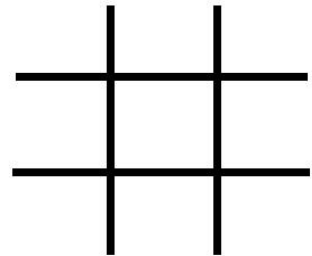
What you will need:

- Some sticks, string, tape, or anything you can think of to create your tic-tac-toe board
- 10 rocks (they need to have the flattest surface you can find this is so it is easy to draw on and see your designs)
- Paint, pens, or something you can use to draw your designs onto the rocks



Make your own garden tic-tac-toe

To start with you need to gather all your materials together, your rocks and whatever you are using to create the tic-tac-toe board. Once you have all your materials together it is time to move onto decorating your stones, divide your pile of rocks in half (there should be 5 each). Now it is time to decide what sort of design you are going to be doing for example, one set of stones could be flowers and the other could be butterflies. Next paint or draw your chosen designs on the rocks (remember the 2 sets must be different 1 group flowers the other butterflies as 1 will be noughts and the other crosses). Now it is time to move onto the board you need to create a board like the one in the bottom left, you can use sticks tape or anything else you may think to use. Once you have all your bits set up you are ready to play your outdoor tic-tac-toe.



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What you will need:

- Paper plate
- Tape
- Scissors
- Colouring pens or pencils
- Ribbon or string to hang it
- Nature bits and bobs (you need to collect things such as twigs, flowers, leaves anything you find that you want to use)



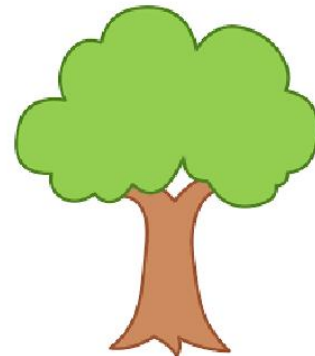
Make your own nature sun catcher

To start with you want to cut the middle of your paper plate out, if you do not have a paper plate try cutting a circle out of some paper and cut the middle out. Once you have done this you can decorate the outside of the paper plate, its up to you what you design on the outside. Next you need to get your sticky tape and stick strips going across the middle of your paper plate start from the top and work your way to the bottom, once you have done this you should be able to flip it over and in the centre hole should be the sticky side of the tape. This is where you can start to stick or your nature bits you found. Once you have finished adding all the nature bits you can use some ribbon or string to hang your suncatcher up.



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Mud Pie activity



For this activity you will need-

- Bowls, Spoons and a lot of imagination!

Add together in a bowl dirt, water and plants and mix it together to create a lovely messy mud pie!

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What you will need:

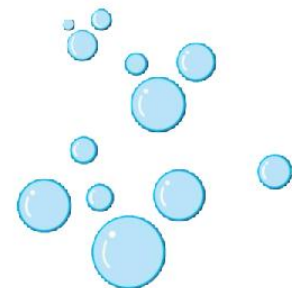
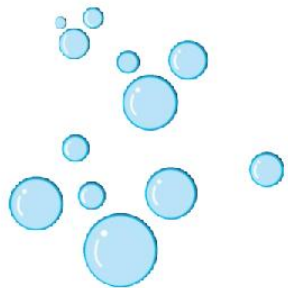
- Nontoxic paint
- Some strong paper (card but you can use paper if you cannot find any card or stronger paper)
- Bubble mixture
- Bubble wands
- Paper dishes or something to contain your mixtures



Outdoor bubble art



To start with you need to make you bubble paint mixture, in your bowls mix about 3 tablespoons of bubble mixture with about 2 tablespoons of paint per bowl/colour, the mixture might be different, but you just need to make sure the bubble liquid has enough paint in it. Once you have all your mixtures you can head outside (**Make sure before you start blowing your bubbles you are not around anything that may get damaged, and maybe wear old clothes if you are worried about clothing**). Place your piece of paper or card on the grass with your mixtures and bubble wands, Dip the wands in the mixture and start blowing your bubbles at the paper. Let it dry before you hang these cool bubble creations.



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Preserve and press your own flower!



- Fold an A4 sheet of paper in half and open it up like a book.
- Choose one half to place your flowers onto. Make sure your flowers are nice and flat– now place a paper towel over the top of the flowers.
- Fold your other half of the paper over
- Place your sheet of paper in the microwave with a heavy plate on top! (make sure its microwave safe).
- Microwave between 30-60 seconds.
- Once done wait to cool and open it up and take out the kitchen roll to reveal your freshly pressed flowers.

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Traditional Garden Games

Hide and Seek

Everyone has played this one. Most parents have played with their kids, since hiding and finding is a common interest of small children. I've heard of all kinds of variations on this game. Sometimes you count to twenty, sometimes ten, sometimes one hundred. Sometimes there is a home base that you can run to and tag, becoming "safe," sometimes you just wait to be found. The general idea is that one person is "it," that person closes his or her eyes and counts to a certain number without looking and then he or she tries to find the others.

Number of Players: Ideally at least three.

Equipment: None.

Kick the Can

This game is a variation of tag and hide & seek. One person or a team of people are designated as "it" and a can is placed in the middle of the playing area. The other people run off and hide while the "it" covers his or her eyes and counts to a certain number. "It" then tries to find everyone. If a person is tagged by "it", they go into a holding pen for captured players. If one of the un-captured players manages to kick the can, the captured players are released. The game is over once all the non-"it" players are in the holding pen.

Number of Players: Ideally at least three.

Equipment: A metal can.

Traditional Garden Games

Capture the Flag

This game is most fun when played with a large group. Split the group into two teams, each team having a flag or other marker at the team's base. The object of the game is to run into the other team's territory, capture their flag and make it safely back to your own territory. You can tag "enemy" players in your territory, sending them to your jail. They can be sprung from jail by a member of their own team running into your territory, tagging them and running back, with one freed person allowed per jail break. It is sometimes played that all the people in jail could hold hands and make a chain back toward their own territory, making it easier for members of their team to tag them. We also played a similar game called Steal the Sticks. It had almost the same rules, but several sticks were used instead of one flag.

Number of Players: A large group.

Equipment: Two flags or other markers.

Red Light, Green Light

With enough room, this game can easily be played inside. One person is the traffic light at one end, and the other players are at the other end. When the traffic light faces the group, he or she says, "Red light!" and everyone must freeze. The traffic light then turns his or her back and says, "Green light!" while the group tries to get as close to the traffic light as possible. The traffic light turns around quickly, again saying, "Red light!", and if anyone is spotted moving, they have to go back to the starting place. The first person to tag the traffic light wins and gets to be the next traffic light.

Number of Players: A small group.

Equipment: None.