



SOME ACTIVITIES RELATED TO GARDENING AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD

Creative

- **Make a miniature garden:** use small container with drainage holes such as the container supermarkets sell mushrooms in, fill with some compost or soil or gravel. Use twigs/lolly sticks to make fencing, stones or lids from milk cartons to make stepping stone paths, add anything you have in the house (such as lids for ponds) and in the garden to make garden.
(could also make people/animals out of plasticine, clay, pipe cleaners etc and make up stories about them)
- **Make a scarecrow:** Can be very small made of twigs etc or very large using old clothes. The scarecrow just needs a body, head arms and legs.
- **Paint terracotta pots/and or stones and tins (empty baked bean tins etc)**
- **Make bark rubbings of trees and shrubs:** use paper and wax crayon and place paper on bark of trees and shrubs. Compare different ones
- **Paint using natural materials as brushes:** see what you can do with each one
- **Draw a flower/plant.** First time draw it without looking at the paper, 2nd time draw it with the hand you don't normally use for drawing. Third time, really look at plant and draw/paint it as you would like to.



- **Make labels for all/some of the plants in your garden:** practise writing the names of the flowers and then if you didn't already know the names you could play a game by remembering the names and putting the labels by the flowers
- **Make wind chimes** out of any bits of metal, old keys etc

Sensory

- **Flowers/plants with scent:** find out which plants have a scent in your garden. Then find words to describe the scent/smell. Then tell someone else in your family the word and ask them to try to find the plant that you described.
- **Listening to sounds:** sit quietly and listen to all the sounds you can hear. Birds? Dog barking? A car? Machinery? Wind in the trees? Bees?
- **Guessing smells of herbs/spices:** put herbs and/or spices in unlabelled jars and guess which they are or try to match them with the labelled jars?
- **Sit and watch the clouds.** What shapes are they? Are they moving? What colour are they?
- **Make a collection of natural materials:** close your eyes and touch them and think of words to describe them. Which are smooth, which are hard/soft? Etc



Games

- **Treasure hunts:** find a certain type and number of objects
- **I spy in the garden**
- **Flower dice game:** Draw a large flower /tree with six parts and cut up into pieces: do this for each player. Number each part 1 to 6. Each player throws the dice. To begin playing each player has to throw the number that the stem is e.g. if the stem is 1 then each player has to throw a 1 before they can add other pieces to the flower/tree. The flower can be made more detailed for older players.

Investigative

- **Digging for treasure:** Find an area of the garden which can be dug freely. Put in some “treasure” for example one and two pence pieces. Your child can use appropriate tool to their size and strength eg. Spoon, trowel, spade to try to find the treasure
- **Looking for mini beasts:** worms, slugs, snails, beetles, wasps, flies, earwigs, woodlice. Where are they living?
- **Make a weather chart:** Each day measure
 1. the rain (internet has pictures of how to make a rain meter) or use a small container.
 2. how much wind there is (0 for no wind, 1 to feel it on a wet finger, 2 small plants moving a little 3 larger plants moving a little, 4 a lot of wind).



3. Whether there is sunshine
4. Percentage of cloud cover (eg. 50% half the sky, 10% very little, 90% lots)
5. How warm it is: use an outside thermometer if you have one or otherwise make up own scale. Eg. Warm enough for T shirt / or need to wear T shirt and jumper or ./ coat at well

Then also count any butterflies and bees in the garden

Which days have the most butterflies and bees? Is there a pattern here?

- **Collect and sort things from the garden:** can they be put into groups of similar materials, can they put in order of size or heaviness, what could they be used for?

Sowing seeds

The following are usually successful:

- Sunflower seeds: you could measure plants once they start growing and see how fast they grow and make a graph.
- Cosmos seeds
- Calendula
- Sweet peas
- Dahlia
- Radish seeds
- Beetroot seeds
- Pea seeds
- Swiss chard
- Runner bean & French beans*
- Courgettes & Squashes*



- Lettuce – take 100 days from seed to eating.

Cornflower, Californian Poppies and Nigella are good seeds for scattering in the garden. Ensure the soil has not lumps, has been sifted and raked and watered first.

*Seeds need to be sown when it is warm in April.

Lettuces should be planted in the shade as they wilt and bolt in the sun. Peas also do not like it too hot.

Ensure compost has no lumps. Large seeds need to be placed under the soil and tiny seeds on top. All seeds need water, oxygen (compost which has been sifted will have air in it) and warmth to germinate.

Investigative: count the seeds that you sow and then count how many grow. Which seeds are the easiest to grow?