

Mrs Cotton's Muddy Learning

Outdoor activity ideas...that support the curriculum!



Twineham parents, I know you will know lots of these ideas already but I thought it might help to have them all in one place. They can be adapted for all ages.

Follow the links for more information or just pick an idea and get outside!

Learning how to identify trees and flowers by...

- Matching and sorting leaf shapes
- Close observational drawing or painting of plants
- Leaf rubbing and flower printing
- Using books and identification sheets/apps to classify plants.

http://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activitymenu/?cat=outdoor_ticksheets

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/tree-id-app/>



Investigating mini-beasts by...

- Searching for mini-beasts
- Grouping and identifying mini-beasts
- Creating bug hotels
- Simple: <https://www.redtedart.com/simple-bug-hotel-for-kids/>
- More complicated: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/give-nature-a-home-in-your-garden/garden-activities/build-a-bug-hotel/>
- Mapping where different mini-beasts are found in your garden/ green space and identifying habitats



Gardening and growing

<https://kidsgardening.org/garden-activities/>

- Exploring the conditions needed for plants to grow
- Monitoring and measuring their growth
- Growing herbs and vegetables to cook with.



Get creative

- Make natural paints – try mud, berries or crushed grass.
<https://www.muddypuddles.com/blog/making-natural-paints/>
- Explore the Japanese art of Hapa Zome: bashing flowers and leaves to print with them
<http://kindlingplayandtraining.blogspot.com/2011/10/hapa-zome-beating-up-leaves-with.html>
- Create Andy Goldsworthy art creations with pebbles, sticks or leaves. Take a photo to record them.
<https://www.redtedart.com/kids-get-arty-andy-goldsworthy/>
- Make a mess and paint like Jackson Pollock
<https://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2009/09/fine-art-friday-field-trip.html>
- Make music outside. Create a wind chime or use sticks to beat out a rhythm or the rain to drum on pots and pans.
<https://happyhooligans.ca/homemade-wind-chimes-for-kids/>



Make a den

- Build dens with cardboard boxes, under drying racks, with sheets over washing lines. How can you make the most stable den/ the biggest den/ the driest den?
- Take the bucket challenge – using only found materials (moss, sticks, bracken...) make a shelter big enough for your head to fit in (when lying down). Ask someone to pour water over the top. Will you get wet?



Play outside games

- Football and basketball or skipping, elastics, trampolining or hoopla.
- Create your own games or obstacle courses using anything around the house or garden (hurdle a broom, weave between flower pots, commando crawl under an old sheet...) Record your best time, draw a map of your course, or measure out the exact distance.



Observe the weather

- Make an anemometer (to measure wind speed)
https://www.teachengineering.org/activities/view/cub_energy2_lesson07_activity1
- Design and make your own kite.
- Make a rain gauge
<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/learn-about/met-office-for-schools/other-content/other-resources/weather-station/rain-gauge>
- Record the weather daily and compare it to the forecast. Create your own symbols for a weather forecast.



With adult supervision

- Make a fire. What can you cook on it? Safety tips from the Scouts:
<https://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/Chubb/redesignedresources/CFS2256%20Building%20Camp%20Fire%20Safely.pdf>
- Pitch a tent and camp out in your garden
- Have a go whittling
http://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf_whittling.pdf



For younger children/to take a break:

- Make potions and mud pies - pour, scoop, snip, tweezer, measure, grind and mix. Write recipes and menus and sell them in your own shop.
<https://tinkergarten.com/activities/magic-petal-potions>
- 'Painting' with water. Take a brush and a bucket of water – paint fences, walls or pavements. Paint circles and lines, write letters and numbers, or paint over chalk writing to make it disappear!
- Make your own bubbles. Explore and record what makes the best mixture and why
<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/how-make-bubble-mixture>
- Make a fairy garden
- Wash the car!
- Dig a hole
- Create a cairn: see how many pebbles or stones you can balance on top of each other.
- Run, roll down hills, climb trees and splash in puddles!

