



Nature Tots

At home

Garden insects

This is a suggested list of learning activities that you can do at home, all linked to a specific local wildlife theme. The plan has been created with under fives in mind but may be appropriate for other ages.

Go on a bug hunt!

Have a wander around your garden, or - if you can manage it, sit very quietly and see what is about. You might spot butterflies, dragonflies, beetles, ants or bumble bees. You'll spot different creatures in different places. Butterflies and bees will like the sunshine, but can be seen even on a dull day, and dragonflies will visit gardens even if there isn't a pond there.

Make your own insect

Natural materials or household recycling

Use whatever you have to hand; any natural materials, sticks and leaves can be used to make a picture or model of your insect. Alternatively raid the recycling box and get creative.





Build a bug hotel

Natural materials, empty bottle, string

Collect hollow stems and twigs from the garden or on your walk, tie them together with string or cut the end off an empty bottle and pack them inside, then place in your garden and watch to see what arrives. If you have the room and want to make a bigger bug hotel, you can [find full instructions here](#).

Create an insect feeding station

Flat tray, cotton wool, sugar, milk bottle lids

This works just as well on a paper plate or old plastic tray, the butterflies, bees and other insects are attracted to the sugary solution. Remember to place it somewhere sunny. [Full instructions can be found here](#).

Make a pond

Old water tight container, stones or rocks

Even the smallest water body in your garden will soon be home to all sorts of insects. You can adapted this activity to suit what you have access to - it might be an old washing up bowl or baby bath, anything will do. Remember to put pebbles or rocks up to the edges so that any larger creatures, like mice or hedgehogs, can get out safely.

[Find full instructions here](#).





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More information

Fact: insect bodies have three parts, the thorax, abdomen and head. They have two antennae and three pairs of legs.

Spotter sheets

[Download a children's guide to garden insects here.](#)

Links to the Early Year Foundation Stage Framework

- Communication and Language – Understanding the World

