



Nature Tots

At home

Helping
wildlife

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.

Book suggestion

Tidy by Emily Gravett

This is an engaging story about a badger who unintentionally destroys his own natural habitat. It is a great introduction to the consequence of our actions on the eco-system. If you don't have the book you can watch and hear it [read aloud here](#).

Create a habitat pile

Natural Materials

Following the story of the badger, ask your child to collect natural materials and pile them into a quiet corner of the garden, you could make a little sign to remind you and others not to tidy it up and come back and see what has developed.





Survey your garden

Nothing in particular needed, perhaps a spotter sheet or smart phone

A great place to start, with regards to encouraging wildlife to your garden, is to first find out what is currently visiting so you can understand the impact on your improvements. There are a number of garden spotter sheets included below, and you could even add your data to the iRecord App - a national database of biological recordings which relies on members of the general public recording information about what they see.

Make a bug hotel

Natural materials and twine

These can be as simple or as elaborate as you would like them to be. You can make a simple one by collecting materials that have a natural hollow in them, like canes or dried wildflower stems. Cut them into short rods, collect some leaves around them and tie them together with twine. If you want to make a more elaborate and permanent feature [instructions can be found on how to make a bug mansion here](#).



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Help wildlife cont.

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Create an outdoor bird feeder

Pinecone, string, lard, seeds

This is a great activity; it's fun to do and has a positive impact on wildlife. [Check out detailed instructions of how to make a bird feeder here.](#)

Make a bird bath

Shallow dish and stones

It's easy to forget that a whole host of wildlife rely on water to survive in your garden and you can encourage them in by providing a clean and accessible water source. Place a shallow dish in an area where it won't be disturbed, place some small stones in the base and larger stones at the edges to allow mammals to get out if they need to. Replace the water frequently and break ice in winter.

Make a hedgehog home

Twigs and logs

Collect some logs and build them up in a square on the ground, overlap smaller twigs at the corners with more sticks and start to build a roof over the top. Your child might like to hide a soft toy in there to pretend it is their home. If you are feeling up to the challenge of making a proper hedgehog home, [there are instructions here.](#)



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More information

[More information on how to create a better garden for wildlife can be found here.](#)

Fact: since 2002, we have lost around 30% of our hedgehog population.

Spotter sheets

See what types of bees you can attract to your garden and [download a spotters guide to bees here.](#)

[Download a guide to amphibians here.](#)

Links to the Early Year Foundation Stage Framework

- Communication and Language – Understanding the World

