



Nature Tots

At home

**Natural
materials**

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.

Start a nature box

An old egg box

Ask your child to find a few things that they would like to collect in their nature box. Ask them what items they have found, where did they come from and why do they like them. This can be a long-term project, with your child finding new things to add on new walks.

Mud painting

Paper, mud, stick with leaves or ragged end

You can create simple paintings with only natural materials. See if you create a painting of a tree by just using mud and a twig. Why not add fruits and seeds at the end?



Nature Tots at Home Natural materials cont.

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Bark rubbing

Small piece of scrap fabric and wax crayons

Challenge your child to find different materials that they can take a rubbing from. Do it outside if you can, trees are obviously a great place to start but walls also create interesting patterns. If you cannot get outside, see what textures you can find in your house and keep your patterns in your nature box.

Nature wand

Twigs, natural items, wool

Take a stick about 30cm long, tie a piece of wool to the base and wrap the wool around it, up to the top, secure it at the top with another knot and hang a bit of wool off the end. Attach some natural materials to the end of the hanging wool and you have a nature wand or a fishing rod. You can decorate it as much or as little as you wish.

Stick people

Twigs, natural items, wool

Children will enjoy creating little characters, with your help to tie their limbs and accessories together. Older children will also enjoy this activity and it will challenge them to develop their knot skills



Nature Tots at Home *Natural materials cont.*

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More information

[Find out more about trees in the UK here.](#)

Fact: did you know that bark is an effective protective layer for the inner workings of a tree? The outside layer is predominantly dead tissue, but can provide protection from disease, animals and even fire.

Spotter sheets

[Download a free spotter nature treasure hunt here.](#)

[Download a free children's guide to nuts here.](#)

Links to the Early Year Foundation Stage Framework

- Communication and Language – Understanding the World

