



Nature Tots

At home

Plants

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

The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle

This book by Eric Carle is all about how plants grow. If you don't have the book you can watch and hear it read aloud [here](#).

Go on a jungle safari in your garden

Spend time in your garden, looking at the different plants – remember even grass is a plant! Look at the different shapes, and colours of leaves, stems, and flowers - did you know some stems are square, whilst others are triangular? What do the plants smell like? Get down low and pretend to be a tiny insect, look up underneath the plants and pretend you're in a jungle.



Nature Tots at Home

Plants cont.

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Paint a plant

Paper, crayons/paint

Find your favourite plant, and make a study of it – paint it, draw it, photograph it, try it from different angles and directions. Draw a detailed drawing of just a leaf then compare it to a leaf from another plant.

Happazuma (leaf printing)

This activity sounds more complicated than it is! Select a leaf or flower or two, and tape them to one side of a piece of plain thin-ish cloth – something like a square of old bedsheet or muslin cloth is ideal. Turn the cloth over so the leaves are underneath. Then on a firm surface – outside is best, bash the pebble on the cloth over the area of the leaves. As you bash, the print of the leaf will be pressed into the fabric. This link shows you clearly how to do it, they use hammers, but pebbles work too. [Find more information here](#).

Smelly cocktails

Plastic cup or similar

On your walk or in your garden, select a range of different scented plants, pick a little of each and mash them up in your cup, add a little water and see how they smell!



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Bark rubbing

Paper, crayons

Find a tree and hold the paper to the bark. Using the side of your crayon, not the end, rub it over the paper to bring the bark print onto the page, using different colours makes a really good image, and different trees will give very different prints.

Sow some seeds

Pot, soil, seeds

Most seeds will grow with a little encouragement, even old packs that have been sat in the shed for a while are worth a try! Put some soil or compost in a pot or tray – again it doesn't have to be anything fancy, if you only have garden soil then that will do, and even a paper cup or plastic food tray from the recycling will work to get seeds started. Put them somewhere warm and light, and keep the soil damp, but not soaked, and see what grows.

Dandelion tattoos

Fresh Dandelion

Pick a fresh dandelion and dab the stem on your hand, it will leave a white ring, now dust with the flower head and leave to dry. It will leave a pattern on your skin for the day. Remember to leave some dandelions left for the bees.



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More information

Fact: around 2000 different types of plants are used by people to make food.

Spotter guides

[Download a guide](#) to plants with night scented flowers, they are great to add to your garden if you want to attract moths.
Download more plant spotting guides [here](#).

Links to the Early Year Foundation Stage Framework

- Communication and Language – Understanding the World

