



# Nature Tots

*At home*

**Spring**

**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*

*When Spring Comes by Kevin Henkes*

This is a nice introduction to spring in the UK. It includes ways in which children will experience changes in season, including colours and sounds. If you don't have the book you can watch and hear it read aloud [here](#).

## *Look for signs of spring*

*Egg box to collect items*

There are clues to the arrival of spring all around us, look for bulbs poking through the ground, evidence of more bird activity (such as repetitive journeys as they look for nest sites), or if you cannot get outside, listen to their songs out of the window and see if you can figure out which bird's song is which.



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### Nest building

*Use whatever you have*

Talk to your child about why animals make nests, choose a soft toy and make a nest for it. Find natural materials outside on a walk or in your garden, or use things found inside your house. Sit your soft toy in it. Look at photographs of British species and their young, discuss how some lay eggs and some give birth to live young.

### Plant some seeds

*Egg box, soil, seeds*

Use an old egg box if you don't have a plant pot. Cress or a pack of salad leaves seeds are great for young children to grow as they grow quickly. If your child is starting to write, ask them to write down a list of the things that plants need to grow.

### Create a 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](#).







## *The colour of spring*

*Green pens if you have them*

Everything is springing back to life. Ask your children to find as many different colours as they can, encourage them to see different shades of the same colour, green is a good colour to find.

You could use this as a hunt for different colours, you could take photographs of the things you find or you could collect some different greens (watch what they are picking to ensure it is safe and appropriate). If you're in the house, talk to them about the colours of spring and ask them to find as many different coloured green things in your home. You may be able to do a rainbow of different greens if you have lots of crayons.

## *Beehive craft*

*Bubble wrap or loo roll tubes*

Create a beehive pattern by painting bubble wrap with yellow paint, wrapping it on to a rolling pin and rolling over to create a beehive pattern. Or, create a honeycomb pattern cutting down toilet rolls into 2cm high rings and then shaping them into hexagons. Glue them together and paint them yellow for the full effect. Add a little bee made from cardboard or even a little painted rock.

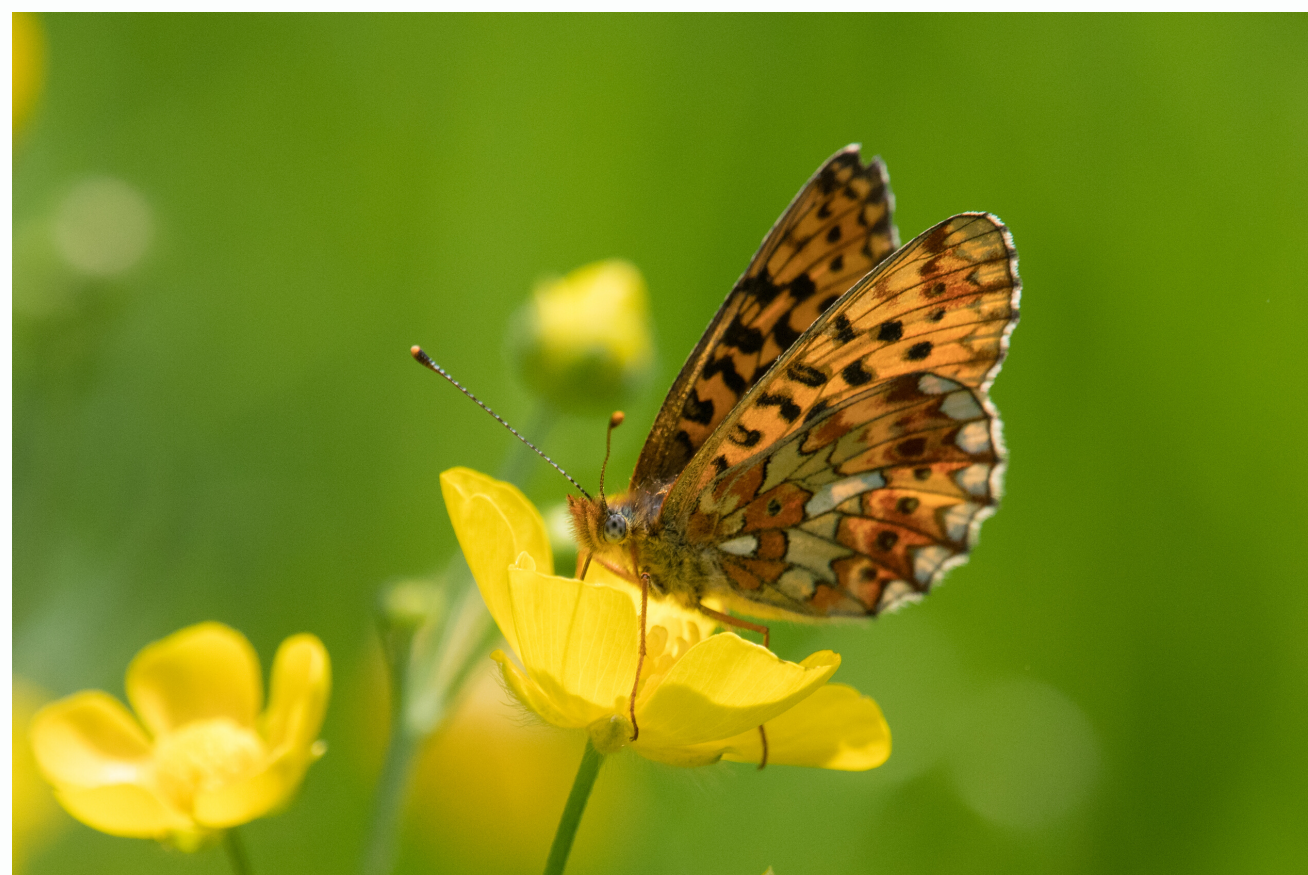




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## More information

Find out more information about British wildlife in Spring [here](#).

Fact: did you know that there is some evidence to suggest that our sense of smell is better in spring time due to there being more moisture in the air?

## Spotter sheets

[Download a free Signs of Spring Spotter Sheet here.](#)

[Download a free Wildflowers Spotter Sheet here.](#)

## Links to the Early Year Foundation Stage Framework

- Communication and Language – Understanding the World

