

1. **Paint with water on the pavement** This simple outdoor activity will entertain kids all summer long! Painting with water is so much fun, it is easy to set-up, and its mess free! -
2. **Digging for treasure** Collect a few small objects and bury them in a sandpit or a small box filled with soil. Encourage your child to uncover the treasure using different tools such as spoons, spades, and a colander for sieving sand.
3. **Treasure hunt** Hide some brightly coloured toys around the garden and ask your little one to see if they can find them - make sure you remember which toys you have hidden, and most importantly, where! Do not make it too tricky or your finders will quickly lose interest.
4. **Lie on the ground and look for shapes in the clouds** Look up and watch the clouds blowing across the sky - what shapes can you see? What stories can you tell about the shapes in the cloud
5. **Draw shapes in the dirt with sticks** Use sticks to draw shapes in the dirt - fun and a great way to encourage early writing skills
6. **Hunt for mini beasts** Look high, look low and see what little beasts you can find in the garden and around your neighbourhood. Do not forget to peek under stones, in the grass, and behind rocks.
7. **Make a mobile** Not the kind that needs Wi-Fi and four bars... the kind that blows in the wind, produces the sounds of nature, and looks beautiful.
8. **Hold a nature scavenger hunt** Cut out pictures (or if you are really good, draw pictures) of things to find in the garden/ park - head outside with your toddler and use the pictures as a scavenger hunt list. Cross them off as you find them and see which is hardest to spot.
9. **Plant something** Whether you used seeds, cuttings or fully grown plants moved from somewhere else in the garden, this activity will provide enjoying for months to come as you check back to monitor progress if your plants.
10. **Leaf printing** This one is great for Autumn, but you will find leaves blowing around at any time of year so head outside and



gather as many different types as you can find. Paint one side and use them as stamps to create beautiful works of art

11. **Tell the story of the Gruffalo** The Gruffalo tells the story of an adventurous little mouse, who uses his brain to outwit the many creatures who are hoping to eat him for their tea!

A mouse took a stroll through the deep dark wood.

A fox saw the mouse. And the mouse looked good.

Use the story as inspiration for your own woodland adventure.

12. **Create a garden sensory tub** Wander around the garden/ park with your little one and see what catches their eye - acorns, leaves, seeds, pinecones, sticks... store what you find on your nature walk in a large box or bowl for you to explore indoors on a rainy day.

13. **Sensory exploration** Feel the bark, the leaves, the grass - how does it feel? Is it warm or cold? Smooth or rough? Soft or hard?

14. **Homemade ribbon sticks** Make your own twirling ribbon sticks by collecting sticks and tying ribbons securely to one end. Your little one will have a wonderful time watching the ribbons blow around in the breeze as they wave them in the air.

15. **Go puddle jumping** There's no such thing as bad weather - just inappropriate clothing. Embrace any wet days by slipping into the wellies and going in search of puddles.

16. **Practise counting** Encourage your little one to become more familiar with numbers by collecting items from outside and then counting and lining them up below numbers one to ten.

17. **Make a nature collage** Nature offers some of the best art supplies around. Collect as many resources as you can find and use them to create a beautiful collage.



18. **Make tree rubbings** Collect leaves from the garden then place them underneath a piece of paper on a flat surface - rub over them using a crayon to reveal the rich textures beneath.

19. **Make shapes on the ground** Collect sticks and leaves and use them to create different shapes on the ground - a square with a triangle on top looks like a house. Experiment with different shapes to see what your inventors can create.

20. **Make music** Create instruments out of anything you can find in the garden. Try using sticks to play the 'drums' on the ground or on a wooden fence and listen to how the sounds are different. You could even create your own music station using old tins and pieces of wood suspended from a tree or bush.
21. **Make a giant tree painting** Wrap a tree trunk in bubble wrap and then little hands can create a beautiful work of art!
22. **Draw round your shadows** This works best either early in the morning or late in the afternoon when the sun is lower in the sky - find your shadows and take it in turns to draw round each others using pavement chalk. You could also outline the shape of a shadow using sticks, leaves and grass. Just be sure to work fast before the shadows move!
23. **Messy painting** for this, you will need washable paint, large piece of paper, old clothes, cotton pads and a rubber mallet. Squirt dots of paint on the paper, place the cotton pads on top, and let the children take turns to splat different circles with the mallet! Encourage them to guess which colour is hiding under the pad before they whack it and find out.
24. **Dig in the dirt** Does this need any explanation? Playing in the garden develops a wide range of skills including creativity, fine motor skills and an understanding of weight, pressure, and balance.

