

# OUTDOOR FUN FOR FAMILIES



## 1. Quick games to play out and about

No preparation or equipment needed: try these anywhere outdoors – around the Greenhouses, in a park, your garden, or even while walking to the shops!

### CLOUD SPOTTING

Look at the cloud shapes in the sky. Who can see... **an animal**? Something **magical** from a fairy-tale? A mode of **transport**? What

other shapes can you see? Can you weave these things into a story?



### Play the Senses Game

What is the first thing you **see, hear, smell and touch** when you leave your house today?

## Make a natural nonsense rhyme

Think of an insect or animal that you might see in London. How many words can you think of that rhyme with that animal? Can you make a nonsense poem using as many rhyming words as possible? Here are some rhymes to get you started.

<b>Snail</b>	trail	tail	hail	pale	male	flail		
<b>Fox</b>	box	socks	clocks	frocks	flocks	mocks	pox	
<b>Bee</b>	pea	me	sea/see	knee	tree	flea		
<b>Butterfly</b>	high	cry	sky	sigh	fly	pie	tie	my
<b>Frog</b>	log	flog	bog	cog	fog			

## RAINBOW I-SPY

Who will be first to spy something **red**? **Orange**? **Yellow**? You get the idea!

You could even make a rainbow scavenger hunt sheet by sticking double-sided tape to a piece of card. Leave the protective covering on the exposed side of the tape until you are ready to start sticking your rainbow items to the card. **Who made the most beautiful rainbow?**

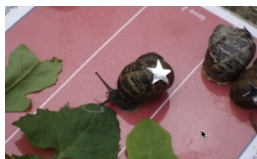
## 2. For when you have a bit more time outdoors

These activities can be done in almost any outdoor space and only require things you should be able to find easily in the world outside.



Collect twigs or sticks to make a rectangular 'frame' on the ground. Now collect natural materials like wildflowers, leaves, feathers, stones or moss to create a framed masterpiece! You could make a picture or create an abstract pattern.

Don't pick flowers or leaves from plants in parks: there will be plenty of leaves on the ground and wildflowers you can use (things like daisies and dandelions). If you are picking flowers in your garden at home, make sure you ask first!



Build a race track for snails! You could use twigs or leaves to mark the lanes. Maybe add some tasty leaves to encourage your snails to stick to the track.

Now go on a snail hunt to find your racers! Look in dark, damp places. Be very gentle with any snails you find: they are **living creatures** and should be treated with respect. When your snails have crossed the finish line put them back where you found them, out of sight of predators and away from stomping feet.

**Bug  
BINGO!**

Go on a minibeast hunt! Who can find the most creatures with wings in 10 minutes? Who found the minibeast with the most legs? (Look out for millipedes, centipedes and woodlice!) Did anyone find a creature with a foot but no legs (slug or snail)? Use your knowledge of bugs to invent new categories!

### Clay Creatures

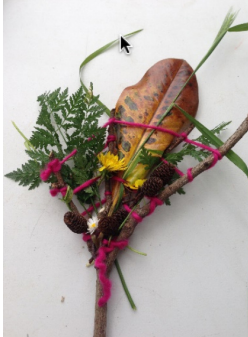


Can you find a lump of clay soil in the garden on a damp day? Use it to make a mini sculpture and leave it for someone else to find. Use twigs, leaves and stones to create detail on your sculpture.



### 3. Activities requiring pencil and paper or some string

These outdoor activities require some simple and readily available materials in addition to what you can find outdoors.



#### TWIG WEAVING

You'll need **string** or **wool** for this one. Find a forked twig/small branch from the ground (ideal length is at least 30cm – the size of a ruler – with the V forming half the length of the twig).

Tie a length of string or wool from one side of the V to the other, leaving at least a finger's space between each piece of string. This will be your framework for weaving. Add flowers, leaves and other natural souvenirs to create a reminder of your day.

#### Build a raft

You will need **string** or **wool** for this one... and a **puddle**!

Build a raft out of twigs tied together with string. You could add a twig mast and leaf sail.

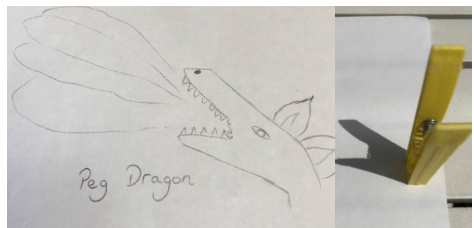
Now find a puddle or fill a bowl with water and test it out. Does it float? Can you improve the design?

#### Botanical drawing challenge

Select a leaf or flower from a plant you walk past regularly. It could be in your garden or a neighbour's garden (choose a plant which is easily visible from the street: don't go trampling across their lawn!) or growing in a tree pit in your street. Set yourself the challenge of **drawing it every day for a week**. How does it change over this time? This is a challenge you can share with friends.

#### SHADOW DRAWING

Arrange a twig, leaf or flower so its shadow falls on a piece of blank paper. Now trace the outline of the shadow. What else can you find to draw in this way? Can you turn your shadow image into a crazy creature?



## 4. Fruit and veg activities to do at home

These activities are a bit more involved and require some advance planning.



Are there any slightly past their best fruits or veggies lurking in your fruit bowl, fridge or veg patch? You could use them to make a **veg friend**. Please ask permission from whoever does the cooking or gardening in your house first.

You can use wooden cocktail sticks to secure the veggies together (you can buy these in Poundland). Cut them to size using child safety scissors but **please be careful**: they are sharp at one end. Younger children should be supervised when using scissors or pointy things. If you have any googly eyes in your craft cupboard these will make your veg friends look great!

### Write a letter with **berry ink**

(Warning: this can be a bit messy. Aprons are advised!)

First pick some blackberries in your local park. Watch out for thorns (and you should wash any you are going to eat while picking). If you don't have access to a park where wild blackberries grow then you can use blackberries or raspberries from the supermarket.

Tip one cup of ripe raspberries or blackberries into a sieve or strainer. Put the strainer over a large jar. Using the back of a spoon, crush the berries so their juice falls into the jar. Squeeze as much juice out of the berries as you can.

Discard the pulp (or mix with yoghurt for a tasty dessert). Add one teaspoon of vinegar and one teaspoon of salt to the juice in the jar and stir until the salt is dissolved. Use your berry ink to paint a picture or write a letter right away, because it will spoil quickly! Who will you write to?

Share a picture of your creations on social media remembering to tag:



@brockwell\_greenhouses



@GardenBrockwell



@BrockwellParkCommunityGreenhouses