

into nature



- Take close-up photos of flowers, leaves and mini-beasts. Create a slideshow of your treasures to show your teacher and friends. Tell your friends about the things you remember most and describe the details.
- Use newspaper/scrap paper/sticks to design and make paper flowers. Display them in your window for others to see.
- Use recycled materials to design and make a wind chime to hang outside.
- Use recycled materials to design and make a bird feeder. Be very quiet as you watch the birds coming and going! Find out the names of the ones you see every day.

Mary, Mary, quite contrary

Recite the nursery rhyme and then design and build a miniature living garden that is fit for Mary. Remember that she is quite contrary! Alternatively, this could be a fairy garden or a superhero garden depending on children's current interests.

1. Draw a plan of the garden. Remember to add colour and pattern.
2. Decide where the garden will be, or what it will be in.
3. Collect the materials and equipment you will need.
4. Create somewhere to shelter from the sun.
5. Design and make a water feature for the garden.
6. Include a pathway and create different levels within the garden.
7. Build a swing to play on.
8. Plant seeds, cuttings, vegetable tops, weeds, living salads and herbs and watch them grow. Remember to water them each day.
9. Add your small world figures to the garden.
10. Tell stories about the garden adventures.

*Do not grow edible plants in tyres, as the food will potentially be unsafe for human consumption.

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You will need to find or collect:

- Gardening tools – old spoons and forks work just as well for children
- Some kind of container to plant in
- Soil, turf, or compost
- If available, an assortment of things to plant and grow – it is important to check that these are child friendly
- Stones, pebbles, shells, acorns, twigs, leaves, glass pebbles etc.
- Small world figures/toys
- Watering cans and sprays bottles – will ensure that plants are never short of water! Alternatively recycled containers that have been thoroughly rinsed.
- Tubs to use as bug collectors – plastic take-away containers are ideal.

What to do:

- Plant a variety of seeds – record their growth by taking photos at regular intervals. Label the plants. Alternatively, grow carrot and swede tops.
- Talk to your parents about how we can care for living things we find in nature.
- As part of your daily exercise, go on a mini-beast hunt with a sibling/parent. Describe the ones you find; use as many interesting and precise words as possible. Handle all creatures gently and put them back in their homes afterwards.
- Go on a 'spider's web hunt'. When you find a web, use a spray bottle to gently moisten it. Don't harm the spider! Think about the shapes and patterns you see. Take a photo to share with your teacher and friends.
- Look closely at living things in the garden. Find out their names by asking parents or looking on the internet together.
- Dig for worms! Handle them carefully and return them safely.
- Make collections of natural things you find in the garden/on your walks. Sort and classify them by colour, size, type etc. Tell a friend how you sorted them.
- Make close observational drawings and paintings of plants.