

This sheet will also be emailed so the links work.

We have compiled some online and practical activities to help keep busy minds occupied! It would be great if children can have a practice of the maths activities; the rest are optional, depending on how much time/parent support is available.

Maths online activities – 15-20 mins

Christmas patterns

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/ordering-and-sequencing/christmas-patterns>

Teddy numbers

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/teddy-numbers>

Decorate the tree

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/christmas/decorate-tree>

Gingerbread man games

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/gingerbread-man-game>

Optional activities –

Joe wicks kids exercise – 5-8mins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3LPrhI0v-w>

Yoga for the holidays – 40mins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2bXRROGopc>

Christmas yoga – 15mins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMeKIAEpWxw>

Reading

Story time - ~10mins a story

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/storyteller-videos/>

Oxford owl free online reading books

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/free-ebooks/>

Nature activities:

1) Make a loo roll bird feeder

This is messy fun kids will love to get stuck into. And it will help them learn about the birds in your neighbourhood.

You can make this simple feeder with items you probably already have at home:

- Smother a cardboard tube in peanut butter (no added salt and sugar versions are suitable for birds).
- Roll it in bird seed and thread some string through the hole.
- Tie it up in your garden where birds will feel safe eating.

There are many other bird feeder designs – see if you can invent your own!

How many garden birds will you spot? Take a look at the woodland trust [blog](#) to help you and your children identify them.

2) Go on a scavenger hunt

This is a fun idea for kids of all ages. You can keep it really simple for little ones - help them look out for different colours or textures in nature. For older children, challenge them to hunt for seasonal signs such as spring blossom or new leaves. Or ask them to see how many tiny natural objects they can find to fit inside a matchbox.

3) Make natural art

Art and crafts will be a popular way to keep kids busy. To mix things up, put the pencils and crayons to one side and look for natural art materials instead. Collect fallen leaves, petals and sticks and use them to make a picture or sculpture. Please make sure you don't pick wildflowers, however, as they are important for wildlife and some are protected by law.

You could even use the objects as 'stampers' or paintbrushes - dipping them in paint and rolling, brushing or stamping them on paper to create interesting patterns and effects.

4) Make an animal or forest out of Lego

Many families will have Lego, wooden blocks or other building toys at home. So challenge your kids to make something inspired by nature. You could all work together to make one big scene, like a springtime woodland or a giant tree. Or you could have a contest to see who can build the best minibeast, mammal or bird.

5) Pretend to be nature pirates

How much hidden loot can you fit in your miniature treasure chest? Search for tiny natural items in your garden and see who can fit the most inside a matchbox or other small container. Look out for mini discarded snail shells, tiny twigs, small shiny pebbles and little petals and leaves. Set a time limit and see who will be the winner

Baking

Have a go at baking some Christmas snowflake biscuits:

<https://www.kidspot.com.au/kitchen/recipes/snowflake-biscuit-recipe-christmas/o9us8zhl?r=collection/christmasrecipesforkids&c=nf61ss9l/Christmas%20recipes%20for%20kids>

Lots more lovely recipes to have a go at:

<https://www.kidspot.com.au/kitchen/recipes/collections/christmas-recipes-for-kids>

We'd love to see pictures of what you get up to.