



Cambridge University

Botanic Garden

FAMILY ACTIVITIES AT HOME

Mini Garden Designer



You will need:

- A saucer, tray or large plate
- Compost or soil
- Small toy person or animal
- Plants
- Scissors

Ages
4-10



This activity doesn't require any complicated materials, gets children outdoors and can keep everyone busy and having fun for hours – what's not to like?!

The basic idea is very simple – take a large saucer or dish, fill with soil and then let your imagination run wild creating your own miniature paradise using bits of plants and natural materials.

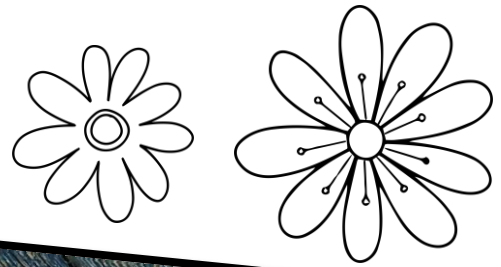
Little sprigs of greenery can be made into trees or bushes, stones can be used to make paths and buds can become vegetables. Just explore your garden and see what you find. Use your scissors to snip off small pieces of plants.

After doing this activity you'll see all the plants in your garden in a new way and will be familiar with all their tiny details that you might never have spotted before.





Remember, professional garden designers always think about who they are creating the garden for, so before you start the activity, have a good rummage in your toy boxes and find a little character who would like a garden all of their own. It might be a farmer, a dinosaur, a fairy or an alien – it all depends on what you've got in your house and what you want to play with.



Once you have your toy you'll be able to work out what sort of things they will want in the garden. When we tried this activity at home we made a garden for a tooth fairy who wanted a peaceful space to relax in after a busy night shift, a mare and foal who needed a feeding area and a herd of my little ponies who dreamt of their own splash pool.

We'd love to see photos of your creations. To share images with us use the hashtag #CUBGfamily



A few important things:

- Remember that some plants in your garden may be harmful to eat or touch. To protect yourself do not eat any plants, always wash your hands after being outside and if you notice your skin feeling irritated, stop what you are doing and wash your hands straight away.
- These gardens are temporary and sadly won't carry on growing. If you would like to make a more permanent miniature garden, you might want to grow alpine plants as many of these are just the right size for mini gardens.