

FAMILY ACTIVITIES AT HOME:

Wildflower wander



You will need:

- Cardboard
- Sticks
- Glue or tape
- Pens

Ages
6-11

This is a nature walk with a difference – children are tasked with spotting the amazing flowers that normally go unnoticed and putting tiny signs next to them so that other people might enjoy them too. Examples might be an enormous dandelion sprouting out of somebody's guttering or a tiny wildflower growing in a crack in the paving.

The idea is to find those plants that you might see every day but have never really taken much notice of before. This is a great activity to do to kickstart an interest in native wildflowers which are often quite small but beautiful when you take the time to look at them close up. You can do this activity out on a walk, in school grounds or even in your back garden. You don't even really need to know anything about wildflowers or how to identify them – this activity is all about exploring, looking closely and having fun.

Before you head out on our spotting adventure first you need to make your signs. Cut an old cardboard box into small rectangles and attach them to sticks to make little signs. Making the signs is quite a fun activity in itself and you can get as creative as you like – decorating around the edges with all kinds of patterns to make your signs look fancy.



While you're busy making your signs it is also a good chance to chat about the activity– what you might find, what senses you'll use and what other people will think when they discover your beautiful signs. When we tried this out at home we all got quite excited to think about how surprised people would be when they came across our signs and also loved the idea that we were going to try to put the signs up in secret.

Once you've made your signs remind everyone to switch on all their senses and head out on your adventure! When you first step outside it can seem a bit overwhelming but just keep going and remember that you're on the lookout for the things that people don't normally spot.

When we tried it one of our first spots was some tiny blue flowers growing alongside a footpath. At first we weren't sure what to write on our sign but after looking at the flowers closely we saw they had really beautiful patterns so we wrote 'Look at the patterns on these pretty flowers'. After this first one we were on a roll and the children noticed all kinds of things they'd never noticed before, including some very bizarre bark and a tree that looked like it had a door in its trunk. The children decided not to just stick to plants either and made a sign for a 'daredevil bridge' and some horse hoof prints in the mud.

If you try out this activity let us know what you thought of it and what amazing things you find.

Happy spotting everyone!

