



Loads of things for your family to do during the summer holidays

# What shall we do today?

This pack started because the team that plan Urban Saints' Llanddwywe Camps in North Wales realised that they would be unable to run the usual summer camps in 2021 because of the pandemic. All of the activities we normally do on camp are for families to take part in together, so we decided we'd try and write some things which families can do together at home. We've tried to keep these simple and inexpensive.

Some of the ideas are original - we thought them up. Many are other people's ideas - we've credited these and provided the links to their web pages where there is plenty more information and, in many cases, other things to do too. There are lots of outdoor ideas as well as things for rainy days.

We hope and pray you have a great summer.

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## 1. Cloud gazing

Try cloud gazing from your garden - maybe lay on your trampoline.

Follow the links below to help you identify the different types of clouds you can see:

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/learn-about/weather/types-of-weather/clouds/cloud-spotting-guide>

<https://cloudspotterapp.com/> (for iPhone only)

## 2. Geocaching

Try geocaching as a family. You'll need a smart phone and to subscribe to an app.

Each of these web links give a fuller description of the activity and helpful hints for those wanting to take part. The cbeebies site would be great for those with small children:

<https://raring2go.co.uk/articles/placetogo/geocaching-perfect-for-kids-of-all-ages>

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/what-is-geocaching-outdoor-adventure-for-kids>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/lets-go-club-geocaching>

<https://www.geocaching.com/play>

## 3. Assault Course

Set out various things in the garden (or house) to climb over, under and to crawl through.

Use things from the garden or house, such as chairs with blankets draped over them to make a tunnel, two chairs pushed together to climb over, a rope laid on the floor to balance along, items to go in and out of etc

- Try completing the assault course with a plastic cup of water in your hand.
- Time each other to see who can finish in the fastest time
- Add silly costumes, like oversized boots, large hats and coats, that you have to put on at different points of the course.

## 4. Decorate stones

Find some large smooth stones/ pebbles, clean them and then decorate them using chalk, paints or felt pens. When dry cover in varnish or PVA glue for longer lasting effect.

- Why not draw pictures on them to help you tell a story.
- Hide them around the garden or the park and have a game of hunt the rock.
- Put numbers on the bottom to make sure you find them all.
- Write encouraging messages or prayers on them and leave them in places for other people to find.



## 5. Giant outdoor collage

Go for a walk and collect some nature items. Put what you find in a bucket or bag. These should be things that have fallen rather than picking leaves or flowers unless you have permission. In a woodland or park you might find twigs, pinecones, leaves, petals, birds feathers etc. Things from the beach might include pebbles, driftwood and seaweed.

When you get home, lay a large sheet or plain blanket on the grass/flat surface and begin to create a collage with your collected treasures.

You could make a picture of your family, or a landscape you have seen and love. Perhaps a lighthouse or a rainbow. Have fun adding odd items from your recycling at home too. Why not use bubble wrap that has come in some packaging to create a bumpy surface?

## 6. Bible story art

Read a bible story outside, then look around. What can you see that you could use to make a picture of the story you have just read?

For Noah's Ark you could use sticks to make the Ark shape, then use leaves and stones to make animal shapes either on the Ark or near to it. Look around for different coloured leaves and objects. Can you make a rainbow over the ark? Can you find lighter coloured stones to make the sea?

What can you find to make sounds? Maybe knocking two pieces of wood together to make the sound for animals walking, dropping small stones on to wood or a stone for the sound of rainfall, rustling leaves for wind etc

Once you have made pictures and come up with ideas for sounds, retell the story using the props you have made.

## 7. Beach art in a jar

Take a trip to the beach and be prepared with a jam jar, some water colour paints, chalks. Anything you think you might need to be creative on the beach!

Letting your imagination go wild, make a beach scene in your jar by putting a bit of sand and small stones, tiny shells in the bottom. Add small bits of seaweed and other items lying on the sand - netting and string.

When you get home you could add a Lego person so they look as if they are having fun on the beach like you did.

Also, Pinterest has lots of suggestions for things you can do including painting shells and making artwork on the sand with stones and pebbles. Take some photos if you can of your master pieces and then leave your creations on the shore.

## 8. Bark rubbing

If you don't have trees in your garden, you could do this together at a local park or in the countryside – wherever you can find different trees – particularly those with rough bark. Take some white paper (the thinner the better – thin paper is best) and wax crayons with the paper wrappers peeled off. Place the paper over the tree bark and rub gently over it with the crayons. It's important not to move the paper while you do this.

As an alternative, try foil rubbing. You can do this with tree bark (as above) or place some leaves on a flat surface, put the foil over the top and rub over the leaves to create a pattern on the foil.

Whichever method you have tried, why not take it home and create a cardboard frame round the outside of your pictures?



## 9. Shadow drawing

This is an outside activity that needs at least 2 people and a sunny day! You'll need a patio or pavement to draw on (in chalk).

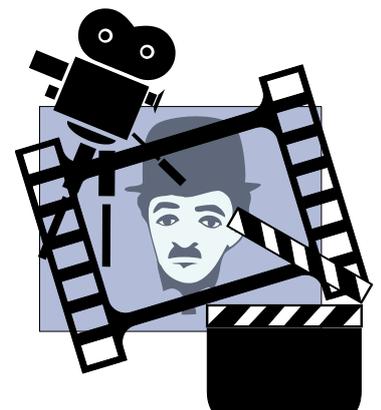
One person stands up and does their best dramatic pose. They will be casting a shadow on the ground. While they stand really still, someone else draws round their shadow using chalk. Then you can swap over so that everyone has a go at posing and chalking.

## 10. Epic movie

Does your family have a favourite story? It might be from a book you like or perhaps a story from the Bible. Why not plan together to make a film of the story. You could put together the scenes, characters, stories, music, settings and even lighting. Then use a smart phone to film it. Maybe appoint one person to be the director.

As a variation, you could use Lego to create each scene and build a film of your favourite story.

If you do a good job, you could share it with friends or extended family or even post it on social media.



## 11. Den building

Find a suitable place to build a den.

Inside you could use sheets/blankets, furniture etc

If the weather is good then outside is a lot of fun - either in the garden or a park or woodland.

Find sticks and leaves to build a den. Build a frame against a tree and then cover with more sticks to create a shelter.

Only use things you find on the ground - don't pick or cut anything. If you're in a public place, don't forget to take it down afterwards.



## 12. QR Trails

Muddy Church have some great trails and activities and most of their resources are free.

They can be used as part of a large group or alone. In a city, near the beach or in a rural village.

The link will take you to the resources:

<https://www.muddychurch.co.uk/>

## 13. Pack up a Picnic!

Pack up your lunch and go for a picnic somewhere – you could go to your local park, to the beach or discover somewhere new.

If the weather is bad, you could always have an indoor picnic with a blanket on the living room floor.

You could add a theme to your picnic and dress up in fancy dress. For example, you could read the story of Noah's ark and dress up like animals or choose a 'colour-picnic' and only eat food that's one colour.



## 14. Build a bug hotel

Why not make a bug hotel to put in your garden or on a balcony. You can then keep an eye on it and see which creatures come to stay. The RSPB have some brilliant plans at:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/nature-on-your-doorstep/garden-activities/build-a-bug-hotel/>



## 15. Following the trail

This is an activity to play in woodland or in a park with bushes and trees. One player will need a bag full of sticks, pine cones, large leaves or stones. While nobody else is watching, this person sets a course to follow using the things in the bag to make arrows or other signs that points the way. Then they return to the rest of the family. Now, the family have to find their way round the course by following the signs. Swap over so that somebody else has a turn. You could award a prize/snack to everyone for finding the way.

# Outdoor Lantern

\*Adult supervision required\*



## To make the lantern you will need:

Empty food can, paper, pencil,  
felt pen, scissors, Sellotape,  
hammer, nail, towel.



1. Peel off label & wash empty food can.



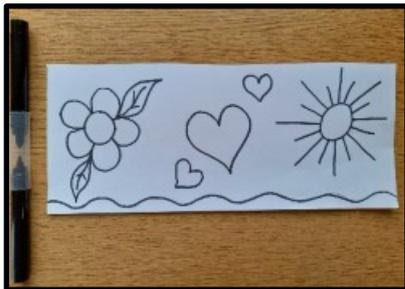
2. Measure the height of can. Draw a rectangle on paper that matches the height of the can. Cut out.



3. Wrap paper around can & mark where the paper meets. Cut the paper to fit.



4. Fill the can with water & place in the freezer until frozen solid.



5. Draw design on paper.



6. When water has frozen take can out of freezer.



7. wrap paper design around can & stick together with Sellotape.



8. Place can on towel to stop it moving around.



9. Very carefully use a nail & hammer to make small holes in the can. Follow your design. The ice inside the can will make it easier to hammer a hole and the can will keep its shape.



10. When you have finished hammering the design onto the can take off the paper template.

11. Place can upside down in the sink and wait for all the ice to melt.

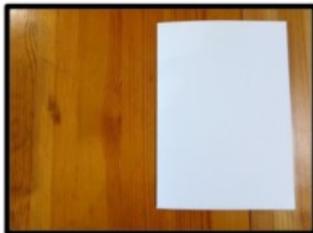
Place a tea light inside the lantern, light & enjoy.



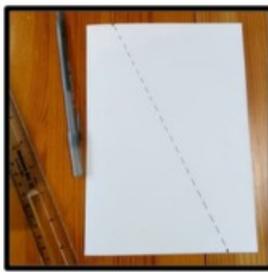
# Kite

## You will need:

A4 White card, Bamboo skewer, white bin bag (or ribbons) thin string or sturdy cotton, empty kitchen roll, felt pens, scissors, ruler, Sellotape, hole punch. .



1. Fold A4 card in half



2. Make a point at the top of the card about 1 inch from the fold. Mark a point at the bottom about 1 inch from the open side. Draw a line connecting these dots.



3. Fold the top corner of the card down along the line that you have just drawn.



4. Flip the card over and fold the other side down to match the side you just folded.



5. Decorate your kite on both sides! Write- **'I am the way' Jesus said**



6. Fold the card so it looks like the picture. Tape along the middle seam.



7. Lay a bamboo skewer across the kite (like picture) cut the skewer so it fits. Tape the skewer in place.



8. Flip the kite over & straighten the 'spine'. Mark a spot a third of the way down & put tape over the mark to reinforce both sides.



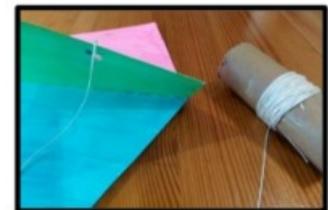
9. Use your hole punch to make a hole near the spot.



10. Cut a piece off the kitchen roll – about 3 inch long



11. Sellotape the end of your thin string to the cardboard roll. Wind the string around the roll.



12. Tie your kite string through the hole you made earlier. Use a strong knot!



13. Lay the bin bag flat on table. Cut a long strip about 1 inch wide. Cut off ends.



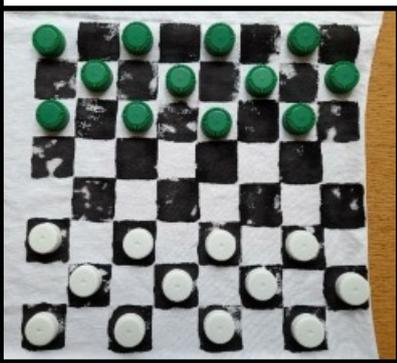
14. Separate strips & tape to bottom of kite (2 at front & 2 at back)



## **Your kite is ready to fly!**

These kites don't need much wind to get a lift. Make sure the middle spine is straight before the kite goes up. Have fun!

# Bottle Top Chequers



## You will need:

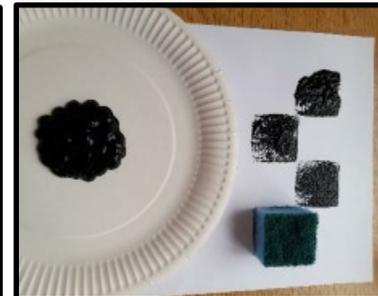
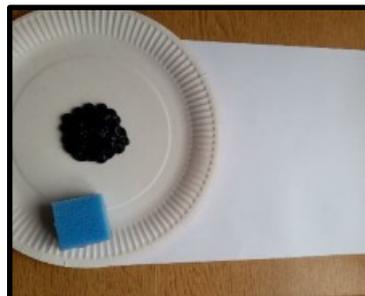
Old plain T-shirt,  
sponge scourer, ruler,  
scissors, felt pen,  
white card or paper,  
black paint, paper  
plate, 24 bottle tops  
(12 each of 2 different  
colours)



1. Place the T-shirt flat on a hard surface.  
Cut the 2 sides of the T-Shirt all the way up to the sleeves.

2. Using a ruler & felt pen  
draw a straight line across  
the T-shirt under the arms.

3. Cut along the pen line.  
You will have 2 rectangles.



4. Draw a square on the  
sponge scourer measuring  
1.5inch x 1.5inch.

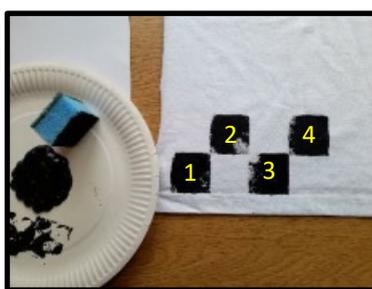
5. Cut out the square.

6. Pour paint onto paper plate.

7. On a piece of paper have a  
practice using the paint &  
sponge to make squares.



9. In the bottom corner of  
material, print a square  
using the sponge. For  
2<sup>nd</sup> square, press the  
sponge onto the material  
by the top right corner of  
first square.

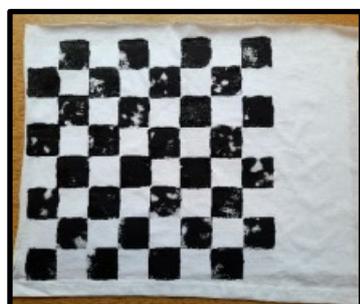


8. Lay one material rectangle  
flat on a hard surface & place  
a piece of card underneath.

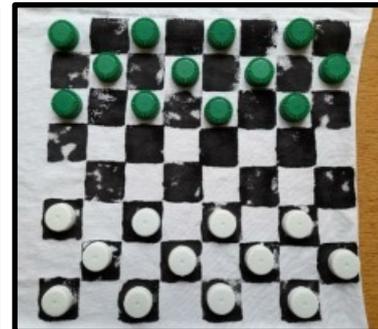
For 3<sup>rd</sup> square, press sponge by the bottom right corner  
of 2<sup>nd</sup> square. For 4<sup>th</sup> square, press sponge by the top  
right corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> square.



10. To make a checkerboard you  
need to have 8 squares in each line.  
4 will be printed, 4 will be plain  
material. You need 8 lines.



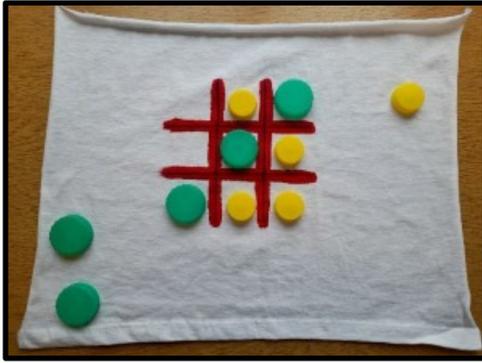
11. This is what the completed  
checkerboard will look like. Leave to dry.



Use the bottle tops to have a game of Checkers

19.

# Bottle top naughts & crosses



**You will need:**  
Old plain T-shirt,  
ruler, scissors,  
pencil, paint brush,  
elastic band, white  
card or paper, paint,  
paper plate,  
10 bottle tops  
(5 each of 2 different  
colours)



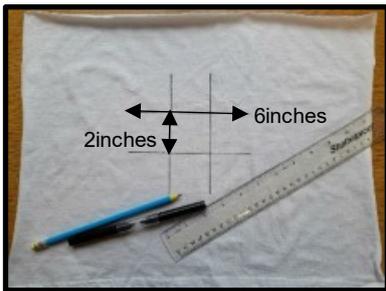
1. Place the T-shirt flat on a hard surface.  
Cut the 2 sides of the T-Shirt all the way up to the sleeves.



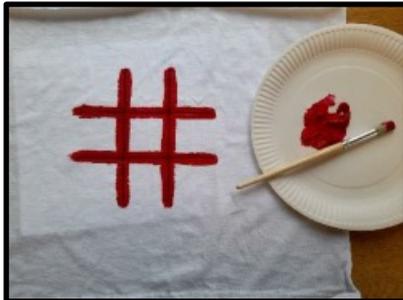
2. Using a ruler & felt pen  
draw a straight line across  
the T-shirt under the arms.



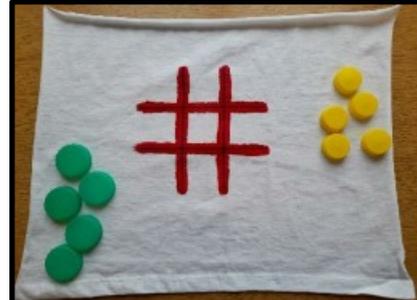
3. Cut along the pen line.  
You will have 2 rectangles.



4. To draw the grid, measure &  
draw 2 lines 6 inches long &  
2 inches apart. Turn material  
around & draw 2 more lines 6  
inches long & 2 inches apart  
that cross over the first 2 lines.  
(like picture)



5. Paint the lines of the grid  
& leave to dry.

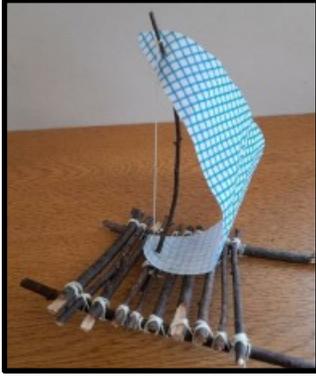


6. Use the bottle tops to play a  
game of Tic, Tac, Toe.



7. To store the game,  
pull together the 4  
corners of material &  
hold in place with  
elastic band.

# Stick Raft Boat



## You will need:

- 2 thick sticks for base
- 10 smaller sticks for deck
- 1 longer stick for mast
- Disposable dishcloth
- Thing string or twine
- Scissors



1. Cut a long section of twine or thin string (at least a metre) and tie the first small stick to a base stick.



2. Wind the string around twice one way, and then do the same the other way, forming a cross to hold the stick in place.



3. Tie all 10 sticks along one side of the raft. Pull the string really tight between each stick.



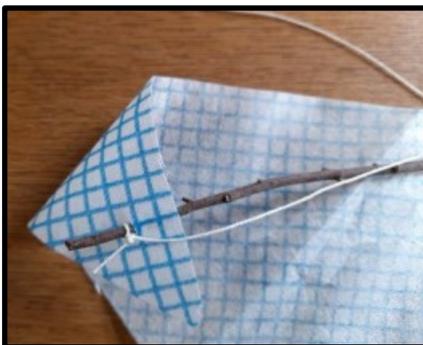
4. Repeat steps 1,2,3 so that you tie the 10 smaller sticks to the other base stick.



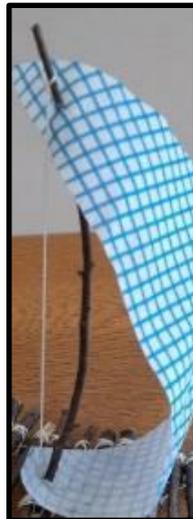
5. Cut a sail out of the dishcloth.



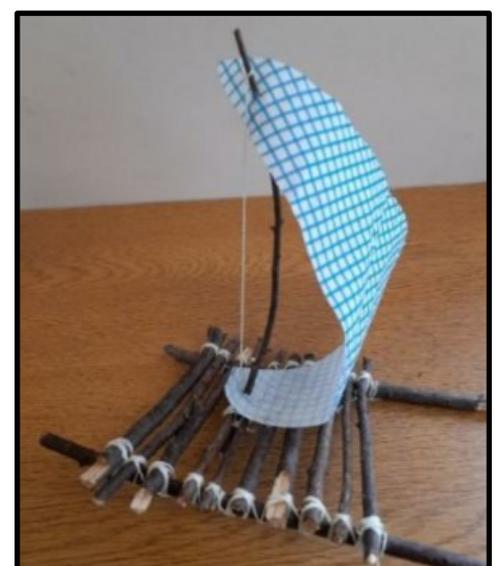
6. Cut 2 little holes in the dishcloth & thread the sail onto the longer stick.



6. Cut a length of string & tie to the top & bottom of mast stick.



7. Push the mast twig between two sticks in the middle of the raft deck. Tie string around the two centre twigs several times, and around mast stick until held securely in place. Pull the string tight as you go & knot.



## **The Stick Raft Boat is ready to use!**

(To make sure your raft doesn't float too far away, tie a long piece of string to the raft, keep hold of the string & launch your boat in the water)

# Make a bird kebab



## You will need:

Apples  
Bread  
Hard cheese  
Raisins  
Floral wire  
String  
knife



1. Cut the apples, bread & hard cheese into cube sized pieces.
2. Carefully thread each piece of food on the floral wire, leaving about 8cm at either end.
3. Bend the ends into little hooks.
4. Bend the wire to form a circle, hook the ends together to hold the circle in place.
5. Tie a loop of string on the wire circle and hang your scrumptious kebab up for the birds to feast on



# Garden Animal Rocks

## You will need:

Clean rocks of different sizes, paint, clear varnish, paint brushes.

Here are some ideas from the internet that you can copy to make your very own garden animals...



<https://homebnc.com/best-diy-garden-projects-with-rocks-ideas>



<http://craftsbyamanda.com/ladybug-painted-rocks/>



<http://shilpidea.com/rock-stone-painting-ideas-for-desk.html>



<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/199213983505578120/>



<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/199213983505578120/>



Another idea: If you make bees and ladybirds, you could lay some sticks to make a grid and play naughts and crosses with them

# Garden bird detective



[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

Pictures: Chaffinch, Blue tit, Goldfinch and Great tit (c) Amy Lewis / Greenfinch (c) Gillian Day / House sparrow (c) Stewart McDonald / Blackbird (c) Neil Aldridge / Collared dove (c) Ian Rose / Starling (c) Margaret Holland / Wood pigeon (c) Steve Waterhouse

# Garden minibeasts



[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

Pictures: Garden spider and Hoverfly (c) Chris Maguire / Earthworm and Common earwig (c) Malcolm Storey / Common wasp (c) Paul Hobson / 7-spot ladybird (c) Jon Hawkins / Garden snail (c) Alan Price / Tortoiseshell butterfly (c) Scott Pelrek / Common carder bee (c) Rachel Scopes / Green shieldbug (c) Amy Lewis

# SUMMER FLOWERS

|   |  |  |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|
|   |   |   |   |   |
| Meadow buttercup <input type="checkbox"/>   | Foxglove <input type="checkbox"/>  | Poppy <input type="checkbox"/>   | Tufted vetch <input type="checkbox"/>   | Cow parsley <input type="checkbox"/>   |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Teasel <input type="checkbox"/>   | Yellow iris <input type="checkbox"/>   | Toadflax <input type="checkbox"/>  | Herb robert <input type="checkbox"/>  | Red campion <input type="checkbox"/>   |

[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk) Image credits: Meadow buttercup, Teasel, Yellow iris (c) Richard Burkmar / Foxglove, Cow parsley, Toadflax, Herb robert (c) Philip Precey / Poppy (c) Amy Lewis / Tufted vetch (c) Neil Wyatt / Red campion (c) Paul Lane

# Minibeast detective

|  |   |   |  |   |
|--|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Cricket <input type="checkbox"/>   | Harvestman <input type="checkbox"/>   | Woodlouse <input type="checkbox"/>  | Lacewing <input type="checkbox"/>  | Moth <input type="checkbox"/>   |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Nettle Weevil <input type="checkbox"/>   | Millipede <input type="checkbox"/>  | Bluebottle fly <input type="checkbox"/>   | Slug <input type="checkbox"/>  | Bumblebee <input type="checkbox"/>  |

[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk) Credits: Ransell's bush-cricket (c) Bruce Shartrand / Harvestman (c) Richard Fowler / Rough woodlouse (c) northeastwildlife.co.uk / lacewing (c) Rachel Scopes / Silver ground carpet moth (c) Amy Lewis / Nettle weevil (c) Rachel Scopes / Millipede (c) Malcolm Storey / bluebottle (c) Bob Coyle / Ash grey slug (c) Philip Precey / White-tailed bumblebee (c) Penny Inth

24.

# Water Balloon Bullseye

**You will need:**

*Chalk, wall, lots of water balloons!*

See how many points each player can earn by hitting the bullseye with the water balloons.



<https://pagingfunmums.com/2017/01/13/8-fun-summer-backyard-family-activities/>

## 25. Links for you to discover other ideas:

Why not visit the **Woodland Trust** website for some inspiration, you could learn how to make a family of stick people. Follow the link:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/07/summer-holidays-outdoor-activities-kids/>

**The National Trust** also has some ideas you could look at like, Making a mud creation!

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/summer-50-things-activities-for-adventurous-families>

If you are feeling artistic **The Tate** has lots of suggestions for families on its website:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/make>

Maybe you're into history and learning about our world, **The Natural History Museum** could help you get creative in your own home:

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/take-part/try-this-at-home.html>

Here's a great idea from **Museum of London** which you'll find via the following link:

<https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/families/fun-home>

Tell us a Tale - Dockers loved to tell stories! See if you can tell a tale like a docker with this storytelling game. Place lots of different items into a large bag, then close your eyes and pull out five at random. Can you tell a tale where you mention every single item?

You could adapt this and try and tell a Bible Story that you remember.

Here's a great craft from the **Eden Project**:

Go to <https://www.edenproject.com/learn/for-everyone/how-to-recycle-a-milk-carton-into-a-beautiful-bird>

and follow the step by step instructions on how to make your own milk bottle bird.



## 26. And finally...the giveaway challenge

If you have done any of the art/craft activities in this pack and made something which is really nice, why not think of someone special you could give it away to. This might be a neighbour, grandparent or other relative. It might be someone you know who needs cheering up or somebody you haven't seen for a long time.