



# Valley Primary School

GROWING AND LEARNING TOGETHER TO BE THE BEST WE CAN BE!  
ASPIRE...ENJOY...ACHIEVE...CHALLENGE!

## Outdoor Learning Ideas 2

At Valley Primary School we are passionate about the outdoors, learning from our environment and using it to help reinforce our understanding. We are pleased you enjoyed our first set of ideas so here are some further ideas for you to try...

### Focus on Trees

Take a cutting from a woody perennial and put it into a glass of water on a table inside. Leave it for 7-10 days and you will notice that leaf buds will swell and burst through! Collect textures that you discover outside. Try imprinting into playdough or do some bark rubbings. There are so many things that happen up in the trees during the Summer that we can't see easily because of the leaves. Take a nature walk and look up at the tree branches. What do you see? Look for nests, vines, seeds and maybe some birds and squirrels. Look for leaf scars on the branches of the tree.

### Create an ice-lantern

What you need:

- 1 small container
- 1 larger container
- Foliage (berries, ferns, orange slices, leaves)
- Water
- Freezer

What to do:

1. Fill your larger container with water and place your smaller container inside it. You might require stones to hold it down.
2. Add foliage to the water in the larger container. As berries float, you might need to pierce them onto some twigs.
3. Leave in the freezer overnight.
4. Take outside and add a battery-power tea light candle.



### Robins

Robins need lots of fresh water in the Winter and it can be difficult for them to get this. Put out small dishes of fresh water each day throughout the colder months. Robins prefer to eat from the ground, so you could put down a ground-feeding tray. In there you could add a mixture of bird seed, sunflower seeds and even a sprinkle of mild cheese on top! Set up an outdoor bird watching nook that will

become a quiet space for you to observe and watch robins and other visiting birds. Have a sketchbook handy for you to observe what you can see.

### **Mud painting**

Henry Neubig uses mud to create representations of landscapes. You could do this at home by using mud to paint and make marks. First go outside with some old pots and collect dry soil, lumpy soil and soil mixed with grasses. Next explore adding different amounts of water and mixing it into your mud using old paintbrushes. Then apply the mud onto white paper or even a white sheet. If it's a windy day, you might want to use masking tape on the corners of your paper to hold it down.



### **Identify Bird Song**

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/bird-songs/what-bird-is-that/>

Wouldn't it be great to identify a bird just from its song alone? To help, the RSPB have created a bird song ID playlist with some of the common birds you'll find in and around your garden or local area. Familiarise yourself with some of the bird song identification sound-clips and then go outside to see if you can hear any of them!

### **Nests**

A nest is a shelter and a home for birds. They lay, incubate and care for their eggs there. The nest needs to be wind resistant and birds use a variety of natural objects to cleverly weave them together with their beaks. Head outside and look for some bird nests in the trees. Have a go at making your own nest by collecting sticks, leaves and grass and weaving them together. Can you make your nest strong enough to hold stones?

### **Focus on Rainbows**

A rainbow is sunlight spread out into an arc of colours and seen by your eyes when the sun shines through water droplets. Talk about rainbows that you have seen and how we can still spot them displayed in the local area at the moment. Perhaps recently you have painted and displayed your own rainbow? Go on a walk and see how many rainbows you can find displayed in the local area. Along the way, collect some natural objects and when you get home you could create some rainbow land art, by using petals, leaves and grasses.



### **Focus on Water**

Take a walk with an adult to find a stream, lake or river. Safely sit and observe what you see, hear and smell. What wildlife can be seen in and around the water? Notice the relaxing effect that sitting next to the water has on us as it calms our body and mind. Make a map of the route that you took to get to the water. You could even take water colours and a sketch book with you to paint the stream, lake or river. Work outside to create your own stream, using resources and materials that you have readily at home. Explore how you can make the water flow down your stream and even have a go at making your own boats to sail or a dam to stop the water.