

Things that you can do at home: 5

The weather is going to be delightful this week so let's take the focus outside in order to make sure we take in our daily exercise and enjoy learning in the outdoors. Be mindful to continue to respect social distancing; it is so important, even though the weather is getting better and it's even more tempting to meet up with other people.

Go for a hunt for mini beasts. See how many different mini-beasts you can find? Can your child draw one or all of the mini-beast they have found? Can you name them? Can you find out more and do some investigative work when you get home? Here is a youtube link to the book *Mad About Mini-Beasts* which is a good accompaniment to this activity: <https://youtu.be/3rDQN8I7RkY>

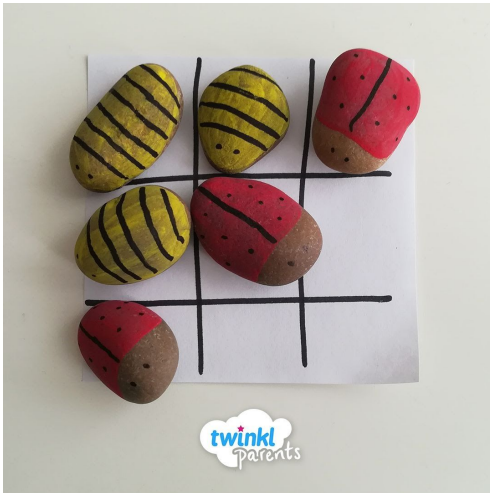
When out for a walk, collect some leaves, petals, seeds, pods etc to take home with you to make a magic fairy potion. You can mix the items in a container with some water, cut up the items together (safely), crush them using spoons or an egg beater. Can your child draw a picture of each of the items that you child collected? You can write down the word next to the picture so children can see the importance of the written word.

Create your own scavenger hunt: Write and draw out the things you want your child to find on their journey. Some examples could include: a red door, the number 6, a white car, a bus, a traffic light etc. Have checklist boxes that your child can tick off when they find the item listed.

Do some sensory exploration on your walk in a park or forest area. Feel the bark on the tree; what does it feel like? Is it rough, smooth, bumpy? Help your child build a

descriptive vocabulary which will grow their spoken language. What about the grass? Is it dry, wet, soft, tickly?

Make your own game of outdoor noughts and crosses. Paint or use a permanent marker on 9 stones you have collected putting either a 0 or a x on each or paint them two distinctly different colours. See the picture below for inspiration.



Chasing bubbles is always a fun thing to do. You can make your own solution from some dishwashing soap and water. If you don't have a receptacle to blow from, try a bent coat hanger, a twig that has been bent around to form a circle, the inside of a kitchen roll holder or even your fingers in the shape of an 'o'. Be inventive and see what else you can find around the house that you can use.

Collect sticks, seeds, leaves, twigs, wild flowers and bring them home to make a beautiful nature crown. Use some cardboard (any cardboard will do, even a cut up old box you have lying around which you join together to fit around your child's head. Stick all your natural treasures to the cardboard and walk around like royalty. You could even have a royal high tea on a picnic blanket to make the event even more special.