

WILD BUNCH NATURE EXPLORERS

This booklet was created by ecobirmingham in partnership with the children attending the Wild Holiday Bunch activities at Ashiana Community Project.

It is funded by Natural England.

Find out more about ecobirmingham and how our activities can help create a greener, happier and fairer city.



SCAN ME

 ecobirmingham



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WILD BUNCH NATURE EXPLORERS

ACTIVITY BOOKLET

#WildBunchExplorers

The following activities have all been tested and approved by some of the children attending the Wild Holiday Bunch, ecobirmingham's all outdoor holiday camp.

You can try out these activities in any green spaces, small or big, however we recommend you explore the beautiful Small Heath Park. See map inside, with its fantastic variety of mature trees and habitats, and check out the last page for tips to stay safe in nature!

Don't forget to send your pictures:
@ecobirmingham #WildBunchExplorers

Ready, steady, explore!

Tips for all Wild Bunchers and their family!

- Be kind to nature and try not to pick anything that's living or still growing or use the rule of 5 and more.
- Berries and mushrooms might look tasty but many of them can make you sick. Never eat anything you find outside unless your grown-ups say it's fine!
- If you do find any little crawlies hitchhiking on things, handle them very carefully and put them back where you found them!
- Remember to wash your hands when you get home.

ACTIVITIES



Activity 1: Weave the seasons

What you need: 3 or 4 sticks for the frame of your loom, some string/wool to attach the sticks together. Spend some time collecting interesting, small items to attach later into your loom.

Choose a variety of sticks, to bind together with your string. Form your sticks in a square or triangle. When the frame is complete, attach string in one corner. Weave, wrap or spin the string to create a grid pattern inside the frame. Once your grid is structurally sound, incorporate your various natural treasures to display what you have found whilst scavenging. Display indoors or outdoors and change the items as the seasons go by.

Activity 2: Story stones

What you need: Several smooth stones (at least 5cm across), some paint and a draw string fabric bag.

Take your stones home, clean and dry them. Once dry, paint some simple pictures on your stones, e.g. animals, plants, vehicles. When the paint dries, put your stones in your bag.

To start the game, without looking, the first player picks a stone and starts telling a story using the picture drawn on their stone. The next player picks another stone and continues the story. Can you manage to tell a story until all the stones have been used?

Activity 3: Tree ID

What you need: Some paper and wax crayons.

Explore the park and find a terrific tree. Once you find your favourite tree, take time to feel the bark on the trunk. Place your paper against the tree and rub with your wax crayon to create a pattern. Identify interesting things about this tree: Can you manage to put your arms all the way around it? Is there anything especially spectacular about this tree's look, feel or leaves? Does it look healthy?

Create more rubbings and drawings to build a stronger picture of this tree. With the help of a grown-up, use your findings to research in books or online about which tree you may have spotted

Activity 4: Nature memory game

What you need: 10 (or more!) interesting, varied natural treasures collected in the park and at least one other player!

Display the items on a piece of fabric or scarf. Give the other player one minute to memorise as many of the items as possible. Ask the player to close their eyes whilst you remove one item from the group. The player must then guess which item is missing.

You can play this multiple times, removing more items as you go. You can even try to play this blindfolded, and guess which item is removed by using your sense of touch and smell!

Activity 5: Build a mini-den

What you need: Long grass or string, to bind your structure together.

Explore the park and find your favourite spot. Once you have located your space, collect items to help you build a den in this space. Twigs, branches, leaves and bark make a good start! Use the string to bind your items together. A teepee structure is easiest, and can be bound together at the top. Proceed to cover the den with bits of leaves, moss and other lightweight materials to form your walls.

Why not bring some toys to move in? Perhaps then it is time to create a housewarming party for you and your guests!

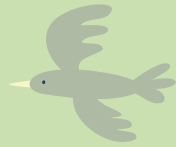
Activity 6: Paint with nature

What you need: Some thick paper, sticks, string/wool, leaves, seed heads, pine cones, anything interesting collected at the park. Also needed some mud, berries, petals, a bit of water (optional) and a small container to put your paint in.

Attach the seed heads or leaves to one stick using some wool, to make a paintbrush. Other bigger bits can be used without a stick. Now collect a bit of mud and, depending on the season, some berries or petals that can be crushed. If the soil is too hard, try adding a little bit of water and mix with one of your newly made brushes.

Now for the art! Look around you and paint the nature that surrounds you, using all your natural treasures and mixed paints for different colours and patterns.

MAP



Wordsworth Rd

Coventry Rd



Playgrounds

Bandstand

Small Heath Park

Lake

Waverley Rd

Tennyson Rd

NORTH

