

Summer Activity Guide

Nature is in full bloom right now! With a little creativity you can plan amazing outdoor adventures for the children in your life, right from your backyard, front porch or neighborhood park.



Sprinkles on Top

On a hot summer day, we all need to cool off—plants, too! Fill a watering can and head to your yard or porch to give your plants a drink. Check the soil and leaves for signs they're thirsty: Is the soil dry? Are the leaves wilting?



Watering plants in the early morning or early evening will keep you from losing water to the hot sun.

Save a plastic bottle or milk jug. Use a drill or other tool to poke a few small holes in the cap. Fill the bottle with water—and voila!—you have your own recycled watering can!



Social Butterflies

Invite some friends to join you on a summer butterfly hunt. Set up a spot near a garden or natural area in the morning and early afternoon, when butterflies are most active, and wait to see who visits. How many kinds of butterflies do you spot? How many do you recognize and how many are new to you?



Bring along binoculars or butterfly nets to help see butterflies close up.

Try making sketches of all the butterflies you see!



Ray of Sunshine

Capture the beauty of flowers, ladybugs and other natural wonders by taking a photo, drawing a picture or writing a poem. Then, share your creation with someone who isn't able to get outside today: bring it to a hospital patient, show it to a grandparent or nursing home resident via video chat, or drop off to a busy grown up at their office!



Use a shadow box to assemble a combination of nature sketches and things you've found outside, like feathers, rocks and shells.

A vase of freshly picked flowers or spring greenery is a great way to brighten the day of someone stuck indoors.



Breakfast Picnic

Start the day off right by having a breakfast picnic! Spread a blanket on the grass in your yard or a nearby park, then settle in for a feast of dry cereal, fruit and other morning favorites. Lay down on the blanket and look up at the sky. What do the clouds remind you of? Then close your eyes and listen. What sounds of nature do you hear?



Be a breakfast bird biologist. As you eat, observe the birds to see what they're up to. Are they flying, walking, preening, or singing? How many kinds of birds are out and about?



Starry Night

See your neighborhood in a new light—in the dark! Gaze at the moon and stars. What constellations can you spot? Watch for bats, fireflies and moths. What other nighttime animals do you see? Listen for the call of owls. What else can you hear as the sun goes down?



Why go inside just because it's bedtime? If the night is clear, haul out some mats and sleeping bags and sleep under the stars!