

14 Exciting Projects To Keep Children Busy Every Day of the Easter Holidays

The Easter holidays are fast approaching, and two whole weeks of entertaining the children might seem daunting. Luckily, *RSPB: 365 Outdoor Activities You Have to Try* is full to the brim with fun outdoor activities come rain or shine - one for every day of the year! Below you will find a selection of children's outdoor activities, crafts, and projects, to keep them intrigued, entertained, and educated every single day of the Easter holidays.

1. Draw a Treasure Map



You don't need to be a pirate to own an ancient-looking treasure map. Age some paper with used tea bags, draw a trail to a treasure (real or imaginary), and you'll have a map that looks hundreds of years old!

2. Play Pebble Dominoes



Gather a number of good-sized pebbles and some paint. Each pebble domino should have a number from zero to six at each end, with 28 pieces in total. Once they're dry, you're all set to play outdoor dominoes!

3. Make Some Slime



Create your own gooey slime this Easter holiday. This sticky and stretchy green slime 'melts' between your fingers and will provide plenty of disgusting fun for the children. Just tip a cup of cornflour into a bowl, add some green food colouring to a $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water, then slowly stir it all together. Add more cornflour and roll the mixture into a ball, like dough. Voila!

4. See a Flower Change Colour



This unique trick serves as an entertaining science lesson for children this Easter holiday. Slice the stem of a white carnation in two, from base to halfway up. Fill two glasses $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water and add food dye to one. Put each half-stem into a glass and see how the flower starts to change colour after half an hour!

5. Trace Someone's Shadow



This easy project can last the whole day and gives children a visual understanding of how our planet rotates. Use chalk to draw an outline around where your child stands, then come back in an hour to see where the shadow falls. Repeat to see how the shadow changes. Children will love to watch their shadow grow or shrink as the sun moves.

6. Have a Picnic



Being outside makes everyday things more special. A picnic is much more magical than sitting around the dinner table – so round up some friends and have one! All you need is a blanket and your favourite picnic foods.

7. Paint Plant Pots



Children can liven up the garden and paint plant pots to create beautiful bright containers. Add acrylic paint to a terracotta pot and you can show off your plants as well as your artistic skills. Make them last all summer by weatherproofing your designs with a layer of varnish. You can even add glitter!

8. Play Bird Bingo



Challenge your friends to a game of bird bingo. Simply make playing cards using 9 images of birds doing different things - for example, drinking, preening, flying, perching, and landing. Watch the birds for their behaviour and tick them off as you spot the birds doing them in real life. The winner is the first to tick off all of the bird behaviour.

9. Lay an Insect Pitfall Trap



While humans sleep, many insects are on the move, flying through the night air or crawling over soil. Make a pitfall trap by digging a hole and burying a pot to catch some of these nocturnal creepy-crawlies. Just be sure to let them go again! Try using cheese, fruit or meat as bait to entice the critters in.

10. Decorate Your Garden With Butterflies



Add some homemade enhancements to your garden this holiday, and make butterfly garden decorations with leftover foil containers and wooden skewers. Draw and cut out a design from the foil container and use a ballpoint pen to make a raised pattern. Colour with marker pens and glue onto a stick to complete your beautiful garden butterfly.

11. Make a Rain Gauge



Make the most of a rainy day by charting how much rain has fallen in your area, like real meteorologists do. Cut the top third off a bottle. Measure 100ml of water in the jug, pour it in, and mark this on the side of the gauge. Mark up to 500ml, place in the ground so it doesn't blow away, and your little scientist is ready to go.

12. Make Cress Eggheads



All you need to prepare for this project is to eat boiled eggs for breakfast! Save the shells, gently wash them out, and leave to dry. Your child can then draw faces on them (or design anything else they'd prefer). Fill the shells with compost, add cress seeds, and watch the green "hair" of the egghead grow.

13. Grow a Miniature Garden



If you're tired of the children messing up your garden, help them to create their own miniature garden in just a few simple steps. Fill a jar lid with kitchen paper or cotton wool and dampen it with water. Sprinkle on some cress seeds and tiny bits of gravel, and place a model animal in the jar lid. A tiny "cress forest" will grow around it.

14. Create a Garden Lantern



Making a jam jar lantern is a wonderfully simple project for children. Paint a jam jar with some special glass paint, or use household paint and put a layer of varnish over the top. When dry, wrap some wire around the top for hanging. Simply pop a tealight inside and light to make your garden glow!

Please share with us what you have created or explored throughout the holidays. You could keep a diary, take some photos or draw some pictures. Enjoy!

Notes for Week 1

- Term 5 begins on Tuesday 22nd April
- Sun hats, water bottles and book bags every day, please
- Please apply sunscreen before school when necessary
- PE kits back in school please, ready for PE on Thursday and Friday
- Zoolab will be visiting us with a variety of minibeasts for us to explore on Tuesday 29th April. Thank you for your donation on Parent Pay for this exciting opportunity for the children.