

Nature Activities Children Will Love

7 Outdoor Activities That Will Turn Your Kids Into Nature Lovers

By [Apryl Duncan](#), About.com Guide

Beat the "I'm bored" blues with nature activities you and your children can enjoy together. Put on the sunblock and head outside to explore the natural world around you.

1. [Plant a Garden](#)



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You can't get closer to nature than feeling dirt squish in between your fingers. Even children who prefer to suck their green thumb can start their own flower or vegetable garden with mommy's help. Growing plants together is also an excellent lesson on how nature works without your kids feeling like they're in school. Fun in the garden goes beyond digging in the ground. Capture your children's handprints in garden stepping stones for a keepsake that will last long after the flowers and vegetables are gone.

2. [Become a Bird Enthusiast](#)



Photo © Pingu1963 / Flickr

The tweets from the trees can bring you countless days of bird watching with your kids. Feed the birds, watch them through [homemade binoculars](#) and raise your children's awareness of the creatures around them. [Bird watching teaches kids](#) patience, listening and observation skills. With over 10,000 bird species to see, you never know which type of new friend you'll find hiding in the branches.

3. [Go Treasure Hunting](#)



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Letterboxing and geocaching are activities that appeal to children who crave adventure. Both sports have different goals but your whole family can play this global version of hide and seek combined with treasure hunting. Younger children will enjoy getting out of the house to find and leave treasures. Older children will love solving puzzles and clues while logging the journey in their [personal notebook](#).

4. [Camp in the Backyard](#)



Photo © bobrpics / Flickr

Mosquitos. Bears. A hockey mask-wearing guy named Jason. If the idea of packing up the family and heading out to the woods gives you the chills, spend an afternoon camping in the backyard. Tell stories, sing songs and pretend you're hundreds of miles from civilization. No running inside to answer the phone or grab a soda from the fridge either!

5. [Make an Insect Watering Hole](#)



Photo © bilbord99 / Flickr

Bugs aren't as scary once we get to know them. Encourage your kids to check out insects on their own terms so they won't be as shocked the next time one of the unwelcome visitors makes its way into the house. An insect watering hole is the prime spot to invite bugs for a friendly outing. Your children can discover beetles, spiders and other insects looking for a drink of water.

6. [Craft With Mother Nature](#)



Photo © Beth Rankin / Flickr

Let nature come to you at the craft table. There are many nature projects you and your kids can do together to attract toads, birds and butterflies. You can also create crafts from your explorations. [Dried flower pictures](#), [fairy houses](#) and [leaf art](#) combine your children's new love of nature with their creativity.

7. [Play Games in the Great Outdoors](#)



Photo © Able Images / Getty Images

Sometimes the most fun you can have with nature is by playing games under the big blue sky. Do you remember how to play red light, green light? What about a game of hopscotch with [sidewalk chalk](#)? Bring back the classics you and your parents grew up playing when you were little. Your children may not appreciate breathing fresh air and running barefoot through the grass now but these gifts from nature grow lasting memories year after year.