

Crazy Creatures

Great for...

- Communication, language and literacy
- Creative development
- Physical development
- Personal and social development

What you need

- Some black-eyed beans
- Camera
- Containers

Activity

- 1** Take the children on a walk into your nearby woods or park.
- 2** Ask the children to have a look around them and collect some natural materials found on the ground – for example, fir cones, leaves, twigs, bark, small logs.
- 3** Now ask them if they can find any trees, tree trunks or large logs that have holes in them or branches that wrap around each other. Show them an example.
- 4** Once the children have had a look and are back together as a group, give them each four black-eyed beans and explain that they are going to make some crazy creatures using beans (for eyes, ears etc), trees, mud, logs, leaves and bark.
- 5** Show them an example you have made, using the black-eyed beans for the eyes and ears and other natural materials for the body.
- 6** Ask the children to show their creatures to you and their friends and take photos as a record.

Conker Rolling

Great for...

- Physical development
- Hand-eye coordination
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Problem-solving, reasoning and numeracy shape and measure

What you need

- Approximately 16 conkers
- Coloured sticky dots
- Small ball or stone
- Chalk
- Tape measure or piece of string

Activity

- 1** Draw a chalk line behind which children need to stand.
- 2** Divide the conkers evenly among the players. It is recommended each child has no more than four conkers.
- 3** Each player can mark their conkers with a coloured sticky dot.
- 4** Roll a marker (small ball or stone) away from the players into the open space.
- 5** Players take it in turn to roll their conker, trying to get as close to the marker as possible.
- 6** Use a tape measure or piece of string to measure which conker is closest to the marker – and find out who has won!

Activity – Natural art display

Use natural materials to create a piece of art

What you need

- **A bag or small box** for collecting items
- **Clear CD cases** with inner tray and cover removed
- **Scissors**

What to do

1 Walk around your garden or local park and encourage your child to collect natural items they find interesting or like, such as bark pieces, leaves, grasses, feathers etc. Give guidance about what they are allowed to collect. For example, if you are in a public garden, it may not be appropriate to pick flowers and you will need to explain that flowers have to stay for others to enjoy.

2 Together, sort the items on the ground by type – for example, group all flowers together, all shells together and so on.

3 Give your child the CD case and encourage them to arrange the natural items in an interesting way inside the case. They may need to trim or bend larger leaves or stems to make them fit. They may also want to go and find more of a particular item for their design.

4 Once finished, close the CD case and display it as a piece of art.

• **Activity – Float a boat**

- Make a boat to float in puddles, ponds and streams
- **What you need**
 - **A selection of yogurt pots, foil or plastic trays • Drinking straws**
 - **Scissors**
 - **Paper or fabric** for making sails
 - **Glue, blu-tac or sellotape**
 - **Washing up bowl** (if necessary)
- **What to do**
 - 1** Let your child choose an old yogurt pot, foil/plastic tray to be the base of your boat.
 - 2** Using sellotape, strong glue or blu-tac help them attach a straw as the mast.
 - 3** Cut out a triangle of paper or fabric and design a sail with your child to attach to the mast.
 - 4** If your child wants to, let them decorate the boat using marker pens or stickers, or stick on pictures cut from comics or old magazines.
 - 5** Take the boat out to a local pond or stream or ll a washing up bowl with water and take it into the garden.