

Natural materials can be great for making artwork in the garden. Get creative and see what you can make. Here are some ideas to get you started.

1. Pictures

Use sticks, stones and leaves to make a picture on the ground. It could be a self portrait, a picture of a favourite place or even some abstract art.



2. Make a Minibeast

If you've tried out our Minibeast Safari Challenge, you might like to recreate one of the minibeasts you found. Count the legs, wings and body parts and try to make it as accurate as possible.



3. Natural Paints

Leaves, berries and flowers can be used to make natural paints. Try drawing a picture using only natural materials from the garden. You can even make your own natural dyes and try out tie-dyeing.

(See Maura Brennan's tutorial on Oak Gall ink on heritageinschools.ie/online-tutorials)



4. Shelters

Build a mini home or shelter for a favourite toy. Use only natural materials so they can biodegrade and remember to remove the toys after use and bring them back inside.



5. Mud Modelling

Use clay or mud to stick leaves and sticks together to make tree faces, model animals or hold other materials together for construction.



6. Helping Biodiversity

You can also use some waste materials to make things to help biodiversity in your garden. Old plastic containers can be used as bee drinking spots or to make bird feeders or hoverfly lagoons (see thebuzzclub.uk). Wood offcuts can be used to make bird or bat boxes or combined with other materials to make bug hotels.



Care for the Environment

In general, it is best to use only natural materials for outdoor art. If using plastic containers check on them regularly to make sure they are not breaking down and leaving plastic in the soil. Don't paint bird or bat boxes as the paints may be toxic to the birds or animals and they need to be pretty well camouflaged for safety. Never ever use glitter in the outdoors as it is made of plastic and is very harmful to wildlife.



COVID-19: It is important to stay up to date as social distancing guidelines may change over time. The most up to date advice, information and resources can be found on: www.hse.ie and www.health.gov.ie

Nature on Your Doorstep challenge sheet brought to you by Carlow Sports Partnership in collaboration with Wildways Adventures