

LEAF ideas and tips

A big thank you to all the LEAF coordinators who shared these amazing ideas and tips.

Easy activities to get outside more

Ask what pupils want to learn about outside – you'll get some amazing ideas.

Where possible, allow pupils to adapt their outdoor space themselves.

Take reading outdoors.

Take exam revision outside.

Messy experiments are great to take outside.

Link stories to what you have been doing outside this week, e.g. worm stories.

Combine outdoor activities with indoor activities, e.g. collect samples outside then look at them under the microscope inside; make art with leaves, take photos of specific things and create a collage.

Identify your local trees the Woodland Trust have some great [tree identification resources](#).

Set up a snack cafe in your outdoor area.

Plant pants to test soil fertility. The Country Trust have an annual [Plant Your Pants campaign](#) with linked resources. They launch their campaign in December, and you can plant your pants from March.

Sensory connection to nature

Start each time you visit your outside space by talking about what has changed since your last visit, using all your senses.

Nature walks in a local woodlands.

Blow grass to make it whistle.

Learn how to pick nettles without being stung ([Countryfile page on how to do this](#)).

Learn how to carefully handle bugs, worms, fungi and injured hedgehogs.

Lie on the grass and look through the trees to the clouds.

Lie on the ground and draw what you see above you.

Sound maps: sit and listen then draw or write what is near, mid distance and further away.

Put a metal bucket on your head and go outside when it is raining.

Write a poem on a walk (for example haikus).

Meet a tree blindfolded.

Do a barefoot walk where you know the ground is safe to walk on. Particularly fun in frosty weather.

Creative outdoor activities

Scavenger hunts.

Create an outside fun booklet for children to use outside at breaktimes, activities can include a bug hunt and recording plants growing.

Paint tree trunks and leaves with water. Notice changes in the bark and look at leaf veins.

Make a "green gallery" – bits of wood made into squares then pupils making Andy Goldsworthy style artworks.

Make your own candles with natural wax. You can melt the wax at a fire pit if you have one.

Make flags using natural dyes from petals and leaves, using a mallet to crush them.

Ask children to hang paper labels on trees for decoration at Christmas. Don't use plastic baubles.



Food from nature

Teach pupils how to forage for food safely.

Eat nettles (not raw if stinging nettles) ([Countryfile page with recipe ideas](#))

Pick dandelions and make dandelion bread.

Edible Info - on Facebook gives lots of ideas for edible plants - you can eat hostas and make lilac lemonade.

[Birch tree tapping](#) – drill hole into tree, insert a tube and allow it to feed into a container, then taste the sap.
Create an edible classroom by growing edible plants indoors.

Making connections in school and with your community

Take photos at the start of each outside session, which are then shared on a display board inside.

Go on a walk in your community we do a live teams link to your school assembly.

Hold a big [One Planet Picnic](#) on the school grounds.

Hold an inter-class potato growing competition.

Host an open evening to invite parents to see what you have been growing.

Visit to your local allotments to find out what they are doing and learning about how they are helping wildlife.

Arrange a visit from your local ranger to show and tell you about biodiversity in your local area.

Arrange a visit from your local environmental officer.

Supporting biodiversity

Plant trees.

Create an orchard.

Plant bulbs.

Plant flowers in your playground, children could plant individual sunflowers.

Campaign to stop your local council using weedkiller and pesticides in your school grounds.

Ask your local council or grounds keepers to leave areas of grass to grow long.

If you are looking for ways to save money on resources and equipment for outdoor learning, please see our [LEAF on a budget resource](#).