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About Open Doors

Open Doors is designed to provide open ended ideas for parents to use with their children. This family learning is about noticing the wildlife near your home and finding out about it together.

Children may not be able to attend school, but they can still be in touch with their friends and relatives in other households. These ideas encourage this connection. Open Doors is about discovering nature around your home, getting inspiration from the world beyond the screen and sharing the experience.

The ideas will be focused on a theme. There are suggestions for Reception, Key Stage One, Lower Key Stage Two and Upper Key Stage Two but these are interchangeable.



Staying safe and protecting wildlife

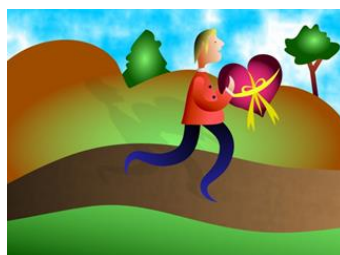
Some of the Open Doors activities involve going to the local park or woodland. Only go outside if you and your household are well. Going outside for health reasons is recommended. Research shows that being outside in nature is good for mental health.

Always remember to keep your social distance and be in sight of your family. Wash your hands before and after you leave the house.

Do not pick the flowers unless they grow in short mown grass.

Respect the wildlife and follow the code- 'Leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but photographs'

Consider taking binoculars, magnifying glasses and something comfy to sit on.



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Family Learning: The view outside my home

From your window

Every window in your house has a different view. Go to each one and tell somebody who lives with you what you can see. Skype or phone your friends to compare your views. Some things will be the same and some will be different.

In the garden or park

Begin a wildlife diary- write the date, time and weather then draw, note, count, and record anything you notice. When you get back home you can look online to find out more. Share what you noticed and discovered with a friend or relative.

On a walk

If you can go for a walk choose a tree near your home, look up into the branches to see its pattern against the sky, walk around the tree and notice the ground surrounding it. Notice any birds or little creatures living nearby. Are there leaves on the ground left over from Autumn? Has your tree got blossom, catkins or leaf buds?

This week try to walk in woodland. (*Bridge Street Local Nature Reserve is near Horwich Leisure Centre and Rivington Barn is not far away*). Look out for new leaves on trees. The bluebells are at their best in April and May.

Check out these websites:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/no-48-keep-a-nature-diary>

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/discover-small-moments-of-joy-in-nature>

<https://www.lancswt.org.uk/education/home-school-nature>

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/act/your-school/resources/>

<http://www.maplandia.com/united-kingdom/england/north-west/bolton/horwich/>

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Reception

Investigate at home

Look through your windows and notice the colours.

Can you find a rainbow of colours? red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. See if the colours look different in sunshine and shadows and at different times of the day.

Can you count your windows?

Look at anything that is green. If you can see grass or trees, notice what kind of green they are- there's dark green and light green, shiny green and dull green. Keep looking over the next few weeks and see if there are any changes. It is springtime so leaves and flowers are opening up all around.

In the garden or park

Choose a tree. Feel its trunk and bark. Look up into its branches and see the pattern against the sky. Sit beneath your tree and listen for birds and insects that come to the tree. Feel the bumps of the roots that go underground. See if you can find something that has fallen off your tree. Tell somebody all about your tree.

On a walk

- Creep up quietly when you spot a bird or squirrel.
- Look out for flowers and new leaves.

Things to do

Draw a picture of the view from one of your windows and send it to a friend or relative with a rainbow of colours. Tell them what you saw through the windows.

Take some photographs to send to a friend.



Key Stage One

Investigate at home

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Look out of each window at different times of the day. What shadows can you see? Which way are they pointing? Are there any clouds today? Can you imagine what it is like to be high up and see the view from the top of your house?

In the garden or park

Choose a tree. Describe your tree using four senses- what you see, feel, hear and smell. Has the tree got moss or ivy growing on it? Look up into the branches and notice the pattern against the sky. Sit beneath your tree and listen for birds and insects that come close. Notice the bumps of the roots that go underground. See if you can find something that has fallen off your tree. Tell somebody all about your tree.

Big trees and small- compare your tree with others nearby. Look for patterns of light and shade that the tree makes on the ground.

On a walk

- Creep up quietly when you spot a bird or squirrel.
- Look out for flowers and new leaves.
- Take some photographs to send to a friend.

To do: write 'View from'- then add your address and draw a picture of the view from one of your windows. You notice more when you draw. Send your picture to a friend or relative. You could take a photograph of your drawing to send to more than one person.

Start a wildlife diary. Draw the pattern of branches that your tree makes against the sky. Make a note of anything that was interesting to you and tell your friends.

Find out more about your tree by looking online. The Woodland Trust and National Trust have good resources for children.

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Lower Key Stage Two

Investigate at home

Look out of each window in your house. Which direction does each window they face? Notice where the light comes in at different times of the day. Do any of your windows have coloured or patterned glass? notice how this distorts the light. watch through windows at different times of the day and make a note of shadow and shade.

From your windows, look to the sky and note the weather.

What buildings do you recognise? Look on Google Earth for an image of your house and note the green areas nearby.

In the garden or park

Choose a tree and describe it to somebody is as much detail as you can. Look up into the branches and notice the pattern against the sky and patterns of light and shade on the ground. Does your tree have any other plant growing on it? Sit beneath your tree and listen for birds and insects that come close. Notice any roots that go underground. Find out about the root system of trees.

Compare your tree with others nearby and identify it. The Woodland Trust and Wildlife trust websites for schools are a good place to start. Take photographs and send to a friend.

On a walk

Spend some time moving quietly through the woods so that you have a chance of spotting birds and squirrels. Notice any blossom or bluebells. Stop to watch insects or birds. Enjoy your time outside.

To do: draw and label the view from two of your windows. Send your drawings or photographs of your drawings to a friend or relative with a message and your address.

Make a sketch map of your walk to the park or of your garden. Add a title and date and use a key with symbols for buildings, roads and natural features. Talk to somebody in your house about your map and follow a route with your finger.

Compare your tree with the tree your friend chose.

Start a wildlife diary and draw your tree. Write about what you saw and felt when you were close to it. Tell a friend or relative about the things you noticed.

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Upper Key Stage Two

Investigate at home

Look out of each window in your house. Which direction does each window face? Notice where the light comes from at different times of the day. Do any of your windows have coloured or patterned glass? notice how this distorts the light and find out about the science of light. Watch through windows at different times of the day and make a note of shadow and shade. See how the light changes the view- the colours look different in shade and sunshine. Compare the views from different windows.

Look through a window at the sky and note the weather. Watch the weather forecast and make a note of the wind direction. can you see or feel the wind? Compare the weather from one day to the next.

What buildings do you recognise from your windows? Can any of your friends see the same things as you? Look on Google Earth for an image of your house and note the green areas nearby.

In the garden or park

Choose a tree and describe it to somebody is as much detail as you can. Look up into the branches and notice the pattern against the sky and patterns of light and shade on the ground. Does your chosen tree have any other plant growing on it? Sit beneath the tree and listen for birds and insects that come close. Notice any roots that go underground. Find out about the root system of trees.

Compare this tree with others nearby and identify it. The Woodland Trust and Wildlife Trust websites for schools are a good place to start. Take photographs and send to a friend.

On a walk

Spend some time moving quietly through the woods so that you have a chance of spotting birds and squirrels. Notice any blossom or bluebells. Stop to watch insects, squirrels or birds.

Sit quietly for as long as you are comfortable and notice anything that happens close by. Look out for blossom and bluebells and enjoy your time outside.

To do: look online for ideas and start a nature diary. Draw, paint or write about what you notice in any way you choose. Look at examples of other nature diaries- some have been published.

Compare your diary with those of your friends.

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Talk to a relative about the weather.

Make a sketch map of your route. Add a title and date and use a key with symbols to indicate the relative position of different features.

Consider sending a letter or photographs to the Lancashire Wildlife Trust for their website.

