

Ten Creative Activities

1. **Collect 5 sticks** – arrange them from longest to shortest. Make them into as many shapes as you can.

Find 1 more stick and then some leaves and see if you can make them into an animal or insect. Talk about how many legs they have, or how big their tummy or wings or head is.



2. **String painting** - Get 2 pieces of string/wool or something similar, cut one long and the other shorter. Get 2 pieces of paper and a tray with paint in. Dip the string into the paint and place onto the paper, then place the other piece of paper on top and hold it loosely down. Carefully pull your string out from the paper, peel the paper apart and have a look at your wonderful artwork!
3. **Pavement painting** - Fill a bucket with water and give your child some old (clean) paint brushes or paint rollers. Let them loose on the patio or path outside. For added fun do it on a warmer day and watch with them as their picture disappears. Ask them why they think the water picture does not last. And see if bigger splashes of water last longer than smaller ones.

4. **Pen Chase** - is a great game for learning good control of a pencil. (Try to get your child to hold the pen properly).

You will need:

A big piece of paper,

2 pens,

2 people!

Decide who will be the leader. The leader starts to draw a line with their pen; the other person follows where the leader has drawn and tries to chase them on the page. Encourage the leader (if the child) to draw in all sorts of directions. You'll hopefully find it quite fun, trying to chase each other round the page. At the end, why not colour your brilliant picture in - it will look amazing!

- Nature Noughts and Crosses** – Start by collecting everything you need:
2 old plant pots and some sticks - this will make a great score tally
4 really long sticks - lay them out in a grid
Find 5 stones and 5 leaves or something similar

Have a game of noughts and crosses - the winner puts a tally stick into their pot – perhaps find some more pots and challenge the whole family to see who is the champion! Have fun counting the sticks out to see who won the most games at the end.



- Flower painting** – have a look round your garden or whilst out for a walk for some pretty flowers that are safe to pick (perhaps add a little reminder not to pick lots of flowers and that it's only ok to do with an adult!).
When home place them in a small vase or cup. Get the paints/pencils out and see if your child can paint what they can see. Perhaps you can join them by doing your own painting/drawing, and then comment of the bits you like the most about the others work. (Just a note, there is a strong possibility your child will end up with a brown mixed colour mess, but that's just part of the fun of it!!)



- Family portraits** – carrying on from last week's growing activities where we looked at differences as we grow, this week why not draw some family portraits. Further build on conversations about who lives in your house, and your extended family who live elsewhere, and the similarities and differences between family members.

8. **Butterfly painting** - you will need: paint and paper. Fold your paper in half and paint on one half only. Fold the other bit over (as if closing a book on the paint). Open the paper up and your symmetrical butterfly will be revealed! Have some fun experimenting with the shapes and colours you can create.

Extend this by using a mirror and holding it over half a photograph or picture to see reflections and symmetry.



9. **Junk modelling** – See if you can make a really tall tower using old boxes and junk. See how high you can make it before it falls over, or if you have cello tape or glue, stick it together. The children have always loved this at preschool so see what else they can create – a car, your house, an aeroplane, a teddy bear chair.

10. **Printing** – finding things to make printings with is great fun. If you are feeling up to it, pick some flowers and leaves of different colours, and encourage your child to lay on a piece of old light fabric (it may work with paper if gentle). Fold the sheet over, or lay some more over the top and hammer the flowers – your child will likely enjoy the hammering (with supervision! – we have done this occasionally at preschool – just keep fingers and faces out of the way!!).



Alternatively do some potato printing - perhaps cut a potato in half then cut shapes/patterns into it, then encourage your child to dip it in paint and make a printed pattern on your paper. Why not try making paint out of mud?