

There are plenty of ways to discover using your garden and being outside! Here are a few fun ways to learn about the world around you.

1. Find a leaf shape you like. Put the leaf down on a hard flat surface and put a sheet of paper over the leaf. Using the side of your pencil or side of chalk, scribble over the paper. The outline of the leaf will show up! Do this again with different leaves and different colors on the same paper to end up with a masterpiece.
2. Collect flowers. All you need is a book to make "pressed flowers". Pick a flower you like (the flatter, the better!) and put it in the pages of your book. You may want to put something heavy on top of the book to make sure the flower is flat. Check on it in 2 weeks, and use it for art! Pressed flowers keep their color and shape for years!
3. Do you like celery? **With your guardian's permission**, take a stalk of celery from the fridge and put it (fat side down) in a cup of water with food coloring. After a day, check out the top of the celery! Does it look different? (FYI, works best with celery stalks with leaves) Try it with a white flower like a daisy, too!
4. How long can a flower stay pretty once you pick it? **With your guardian's permission**, pick a few flowers with their stems attached. Fill a few cups: one with regular water, one with water and lemon juice, one with soda, and one with water and sugar. Put the flowers in and watch over the next few days to see which stays healthy the longest! You can add whatever you like to the water to see what will happen!
5. Take a notebook out to the garden. How many insects can you see? Keep a tally of the insects. Try to draw some. What do they have in common? What is different about them?
6. If you have string around, use it to tie sticks together and build a stick buddy, a frame, a bug hotel, or anything you can think of!
7. After your family uses a pepper, save the seeds! Put the pepper seeds on a wet paper towel and place it in a ziplock bag. Watch over the next week to see them sprout!
8. **With your guardian's permission**, take the top of a pineapple your family got from the store. Put the top into a pot with soil. The pineapple top will start to grow a whole new plant!
9. Look at the bark of any tree. What do you see? What colors are on it, what texture is it, is anything moving? There are tons of little things you can see on a tree when you're looking for them!
10. Praying mantises lay their egg sacs, or ootheca, in the fall. These are hard, birdnest-looking structures on tall grass, tree branches, or various other places. Find one of these in the spring. Put it in a large glass jar and see how many baby praying mantises appear! Be sure to release them soon after hatching, though, so they can find food that isn't their brother or sister!
11. Have you ever used flowers to color? Try it out! Dandelions will dye your paper or even fabric a bright yellow, just rub the flowers against the art piece! Try this with other flowers, too!
12. **With your guardian's permission**, dig a small hole in the ground. How long does it take to find a worm? An ant? A tunnel in the soil from a bug?