



Come and play!

WildPlay

Autumn is here and a new school year starts! We have already organised a fun filled week in the Autumn half term for you and below have some ideas to keep your little ones entertained until then.

SCROLL DOWN
FOR THINGS
TO DO

FEEDBACK FROM YOU

Thank you to those who completed our questionnaire at the Summer Wild Play event you gave us some amazing feedback!

65%

Gave the day the highest enjoyment factor and everyone else gave it 4 out of 5 – pretty impressive!

98%

Of visitors to the Summer Wildplay events said they would like to go to an event more often.

94%

Of respondents wanted more ideas of what to do with your children outside.

Autumn Half Term - Wildplay Wander

Monday 23 October, 10am til 12 midday

As part of the National Park Walking Week come on a slow ramble and enjoy some family fun exploring the wilder side of the Forest. Go to www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/walkingfestival to book your place.

Autumn Wildplay day 2017

Wednesday 25 October, 10am til 3pm

Join us to discover fun ways to explore, play and get creative in the outdoors, from your back garden to the New Forest woods, streams and heaths. Come and try deer-spotting, forest crafts and much more on our wild woodland trail. 'Swap some screen time for wild time out in the New Forest.'

Suitable for all (children must be accompanied by an adult). Please book online so we know you're coming by registering here:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/autumn-wild-play-day-tickets-38722871150

Things to do during autumn

We're going on a Leaf Hunt

How many leaves you can find and collect on your walk?

Can you find one with all the leaf colours? Green, yellow, pink, orange, red and purple? There are lots of different textures and sizes to be found and some leaves can be found in different colours.

Are you fast enough to catch a falling leaf? It's quite hard to do!

When you get home you can then see how many different types of leaves you have found. Here is a link to help you identify the different types of leaves:

www.forestry.gov.uk/treenametrail

or you could download the Leaf Snap app:

www.nhm.ac.uk/take-part/identify-nature/leafsnap-uk-app.html

You can do loads of fun things with leaves:

- **Create leaf art** –see if you can make a leaf selfie of you on your walk, just clear a space on the Forest floor and get to work! When you get home using glue you can stick the leaves onto paper and make some leaf families.
- **Make a face that grows (see photos left)** – using a toilet roll tube, fold in the bottom and use some sticky tape to make a little pot. Using glue, stick some leaves to make a face on the pot, you could even use acorn shells for eyes. Then fill the pot with some soil (nearly up to the top) and add some seeds to grow into hair. Cress seeds and radish are fast growers and you should see some sprouting upwards in the following days. This will grow in a few weeks and then you can eat the hair or roots!
- **Make some bunting** - Dry out some leaves and make leaf bunting using cotton threaded through the leaves; you could decorate your house for harvest or Halloween celebrations.



Make a face!



What else can you do?.....

Autumn shopping

This term local school children have been learning the importance of shopping locally thanks to the Ranger team and New Forest Marque.

Why not set up your own 'local shop'? Whilst walking in the Forest see what you can find lying on the Forest floor there are lots of acorns, horse chestnuts, fir cones and conkers to find. You could even make your own mud pies!

For some great real recipes and information on local produce, visit

www.newforestmarque.co.uk

Build a den

Be inspired by how animals make their homes. Can you build a giant nest of twigs, a pebble shelter big enough for your teddy or a camouflaged den using sticks? Find a strong supporting branch or V-shape in a tree and choose your first and main branches carefully. For the safety of other people in the Forest and wild animals, always dismantle your den before you leave. Safety tips - if the log is bigger than your leg, get two people to move it, roll it or drag it. Never pull up bracken or other living plants and remember to cover your arms and legs to avoid ticks.

Mini crafty rafts

Collect different natural materials and see which ones float. Will they be strong enough to float a feather, an acorn or a conker? Can you weave grasses or twigs to make a mat? Or use a leaf for a sail. Safety tips - make sure you access shallow gravel streams from gentle slopes (dark water is deep). Use natural materials and never play by water alone.

Bugs eye or Bird's eye view

Lay on the floor face down and look ahead through the jungle of grasses, or face up to look through the tree branches above. Imagine and recreate an animal's journey through this habitat. You could leave a trail for a friend with a piece of string or use a small hand mirror to look above and below you as you explore. Safety tips - cover up arms and legs before laying down on woodland floor to avoid ticks. Don't trip over while staring at the sky, or stare into the sun.





Adopt a stick

Pick an interesting stick the size of your hand, forearm or arm. Take it on an adventure and imagine all the things it could be as you walk. It could be a walking stick, fishing rod, water diviner, stick man, trumpet, giant pencil, arrow, drumstick, sundial, nest or a picture frame. Say goodbye and leave your stick behind for another child's adventure. Safety tips - check whether anything is living on your stick and don't forget that a stick can be sharp and pointy.

Collect a...

Collect a rainbow, an alphabet or as many things as you can that are different shapes such as circles. Choose your own categories and challenge the whole family. Safety tips - Only collect things which are not alive, not poisonous or sharp. If it's too big or you think it might be dangerous you can always make a photo collection or keep a list instead!

Go bonkers for conkers!

First of all you have to find a horse chestnut tree.

- Now you have found one, choose your conker wisely!
- You can play float or sink – place them in a bucket of water sinkers are the winners!
- You can collect loads and play miniature skittles
- You can also play conkers!



FACT:

Sadly conkers are likely to be a thing of the past. Experts have said conkers could vanish from Britain within fifteen years as horse chestnut trees are being ravaged by moths and disease.