



FUN WITH LEAVES AND STICKS

Make a Collection, Have an Exhibition!



Choose a theme, such as twigs or leaves, and collect as many different types as you can find.

Make an exhibition with your collection.

Can you make an autumn collection of leaves from pale green all the way through yellows, oranges, reds and browns? What about different lengths or textures of twigs?

What else can you think of?

Build a House

Thousands of years ago, prehistoric people built roundhouses in BRVP. They used wooden branches, or sawn wood, and made the walls from wattle and daub (woven wood covered with clay). Have a go at building a house – it doesn't have to be round, though!

1. Collect twigs and leaves.
2. Prop the sturdiest twigs against each other to create a frame. A-shaped frames are usually easiest.
3. Carefully balance other sticks against the frame. It might fall over a few times!
4. Try adding more sticks along the bottom edges to support the uprights.
5. When you've done the structure, add thinner sticks and leaves or dry grass to fill in gaps and make your new home weatherproof.

Now, why not add some stick fences for your farm animals and garden?

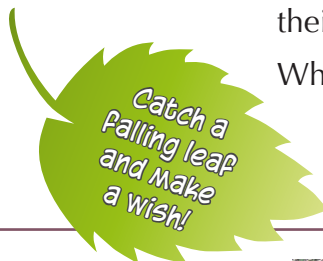
Leaf Pictures

Bring glue and paper to do this activity in the park. Or take your collection home to make your pictures.

Glue your leaves onto a paper background.

Now use a pen, pencil or crayon to turn them into characters with arms, legs and hats. Look how their different shapes make different characters.

Why not try different coloured backgrounds?





Water Fun

Quack Quack, Fish!

How many different kinds of waterbird can you see?

Newnham Priory's medieval monks enjoyed eating fish and birds from their fishponds.

Check out the bumpy field by the marina. The bumps and dips show where the monks' ponds once rippled.

Discover Minibeasts



Bring your net and a clear bucket or open tray and fish for water bugs. Put them back when you've had a good look! Try the special pond-dipping platform on the Grange Estate.

Download a Spotter Sheet before you go, so you'll know what you've found. We like the Woodland Trust's Nature Detective Sheets, at www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Float a Boat

For thousands of years people travelled by boat along the River Great Ouse that runs through the park.



Make a boat and float it on the river from the pond-dipping platform, or on Priory Lake by the visitor centre.

1. Find a piece of fallen bark.
2. Poke a small hole in the bark, then add a mast and sail.
3. Your boat is ready to sail! But what about a passenger – a small pebble or an acorn, perhaps?

Please don't pull bark off a living tree – it damages the tree and it might damage you too as the bark clings tight to the tree.

POOHSTICKS

Choose a twig and play poohsticks from a bridge on the Grange Estate or at Danish Camp. The first ever boats were probably tree trunks or logs – a bit like ride-on poohsticks.

Did you know?

You can go boating yourself at BRVP. Hire a kayak at Danish Camp, or take their leisurely boat trip aboard the Artful Dodger.

Play and Explore

www.bedfordrivervalleypark.org



Just Play!

Hide and Find

In the woods, by the lake, in the park, we love Hide and Find. Take along a few small toys, dinosaurs, cars, animals... Hide them.



And Find! If your little ones are very little then keep a good eye on the hiding bit, to avoid losing a favourite toy.



Movie Star

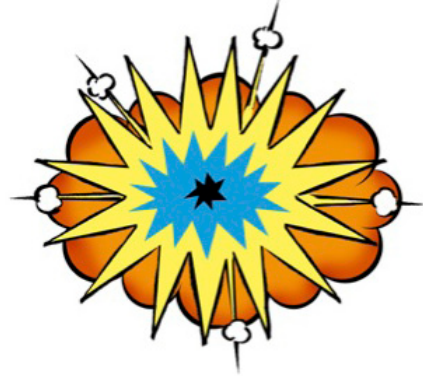
Why not make your own film or music video in the park?

All you need is a family mobile phone and some imagination.

But who's the crew and who are the stars?



All Fall Down



Did you know there was once a power station at Goldington? The hot, noisy, dangerous factory turned coal into electricity for Bedford homes. After it shut down, experts demolished the cooling towers.

So, choose who'll be the towers and who'll be the explosions expert.

Towers – you need to stand strong and tall.

Explosions expert – you need to pretend to stack the dynamite, light the fuse, do the count down, run away and shout BOOM!

Ready?

BOOM!

Did you know?

Cardington Sheds at the edge of the park were built as air hangars for Britain's biggest ever airship. Now they are popular film locations and feature in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Star Wars, Inception, and the Batman Dark Knight films. Music stars practice and film here, including One Direction and Take That.



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