



INSPIRATION EDUCATION CONSERVATION

# THE YORKSHIRE ARBORETUM

## KIDS' ACTIVITIES

### PERFECT FOR HOME SCHOOLING & OUTDOOR TIME

For those of you with children who are self-isolating, we would like to support you with some practical ideas for home schooling and family activities.

This handy guide not only contains a range of simple, fun learning activities, but also links to other resources and local visitor attractions offering walks and fresh air for you and your children.

Stay up to date with the Yorkshire Arboretum:

**@yorksarboretum**



[www.yorkshirearboretum.org](http://www.yorkshirearboretum.org)



To all our visitors,

In light of the uncertainties we are facing, the Yorkshire Arboretum will remain open, 10am-3pm every day, and is free to all until further notice. We have 120 acres of fresh air, open spaces and natural tranquillity for you to explore—whether you want to walk your dog, admire the local wildlife or catch the first signs of spring there is room for everyone.

In the interest of visitors' wellbeing, the Visitor Centre and café will be closed.

The arboretum can be accessed by the gate to the left of the Visitor Centre. If you would like to make a donation to the arboretum, you can do so by putting money in the donation box on the entrance gate, or scan the accompanying QR code with your smartphone to give digitally. To donate online, visit : <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/12406>

We thank you for your continued support

The Yorkshire Arboretum team









## Indoor activity ideas:

- Learn a new language - try the Duolingo app or something similar!
- Bake a cake
- Plan a meal to a budget, then buy the ingredients and cook it together
- Teach an adult a Just Dance or Tick Tock dance routine
- Read a book or newspaper (First News is perfect for children)
- Help a parent clear out a garage, draw or room and donate things to charity
- Write a story, a diary, a shopping list, a postcard or a letter to a relative - why not add some illustrations?
- Make lists: Your favourite foods, your favourite places...the list is endless
- Learn a new skill - why not try to sew on a button or learn to do the laundry?

## Get outdoors ideas:

Make sure you check for any allergens that might be in your area...

-  Walk your dog, or offer to walk your neighbour's dog, or play with a pet - cats and guinea pigs need attention too!
-  Run, cycle, jog, scoot, hop, skip or jump around your garden or neighbourhood
-  Make a minibeast garden from leaves, twigs and stones. Minibeasts need food (leaves, wood), water (wet soil) and shelter (logs, wood or leaves)
-  Investigate your garden for signs of spring: Look for bulbs, buds, blossom and leaves
-  Create an Explorer's Trail: Draw a map of your garden, then explorer to see what you can find. Don't forget to mark what you've found on your map afterwards!
-  The garden is a great place for children to extend their numeracy skills. Use clover leaves to recite the 3 times table, or use a piece of chalk and stones to make a number line.



**Colour Collection:** All you need for this is a piece of card and a sticker strip! Try to find as many different colours in your garden as you can, then stick them on to your card - can you make a garden rainbow?



**Seasonal Story Trail:** Write down some seasonal words and hang them around your garden. 'Bright', 'green', 'sunny'... Ask someone to hide them and try and spot them - perhaps you can make a sentence, or compose a poem with your words!



**Story Stick:** Find a stick you like in your garden, take it for a walk and collect memories along the way, for example fallen leaves or feathers. Can you retrace your steps using your stick as a guide?



**Amazing Art:** The garden offers a wide array of resources to create amazing art! Arrange fallen leaves into a sunshine, or use other things you can find to make a sculpture to show to your family!



## References and links:

If you would like to explain the coronavirus to your children, this social story may help to do that in an appropriate and effective manner:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/KeshetChicago/coronavirus-social-story/full-view.html>

Alongside government guidelines for social distancing, fresh air will be essential for all:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

National trust have some grounds open for free. Check updates for Brimham Rocks, Beningborough Hall, Fountains Abbey and Nunnington Hall:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/days-out/regionyorkshirenortheast/Yorkshire>

Bolton Abbey has a car park charge. Good for river walks and children's adventure playground:

<https://boltonabbey.com/>

Lotherton Hall grounds are open, but the bird garden is closed. Good for playground and walks:

<https://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk/lotherton/>

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has reserves at Askham Bog, Moorlands Nature Reserve, Strensall Common, Wheldrake Ings, Allerthorpe, and more:

<https://www.ywt.org.uk/>

Other links:

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors/>

[www.twinkl.co.uk/offer](http://www.twinkl.co.uk/offer)

<https://chatterpack.net/blogs/blog/resources-list-for-home-learning>

<https://www.mothercould.com/adventures-of-a-toddler>

<https://www.goodthingsguy.com/lifestyle/educational-resources-lockdown/>

<https://www.kew.org/learning>

[www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk](http://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk)

<https://www.opalexplorenature.org/>

<https://www.saps.org.uk/>



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