



Nature Craft & Play Kit

Create and play outdoors this summer—make a nature bookmark, create a garden fairy, and build a bug house! This kit is geared towards preschool age children and their families.

This kit includes:

- List of related books you may enjoy!
- Activity 1: Nature Bookmark
 - * *Supplies included:* 2 strips of contact paper, 2 strips of colored paper
- Activity 2: Garden Fairy
 - * *Supplies included:* craft sticks, artificial flower petals, yarn, felt, fairy template
- Activity 3: Build a Bug House
 - * *Supplies included:* Twine

As you search for nature objects, please follow local rules if you visit a park or other public area. Most parks prohibit damage to or removal of living plants.

We want to hear from you! Share pictures and stories on social media by using the hashtag: **#RCLReadMakeDo**



Nature Craft & Play

BOOK LIST

- *101 things for kids to do outside* by Dawn Isaac (2016)
- *101 things to do outside: loads of fantastically fun reasons to get up, get out, and get active!* by Susan Hayes (2015)
- *25 fun things to do outside* by Paul Mason (2019)
- *Get outside guide: all things adventure, exploration, and fun!* by Nancy Honovich and Julie Beer (2014)
- *Great things to do outside: 365 awesome outdoor activities* by Jamie Ambrose (2014)
- *A little bit of dirt: 55+ science and art activities to reconnect children with nature* by Aisa Citro (2015)
- *Make it wild! : 101 things to make and do outdoors* by Fiona Danks (2010)
- *Muddy Boots: outdoor activities for children* by Liza Gardener Walsh (2015)
- *Sticks and stones: a kid's guide to building and exploring in the great outdoors* by Melissa Lennig (2019)
- *Ultimate Explorer guide: explore, discover, and create your own adventures with real National Geographic explorers* by Nancy Honovich (2017)
- *Wild things: over 100 magical outdoor adventures* by Jo Schofield & Fiona Danks; illustrated by Pete Williamson. (2019)
- *The wild year book: things to do outdoors through the seasons* by Fiona Danks and Jo Schofield (2018)



Nature Bookmark

Make a bookmark with natural objects, then enjoy how it changes over time!

Supplies provided in kit:

- 2 strips of color paper
- 2 strips of contact paper

Supplies from home/nature:

- Scissors
- Natural objects



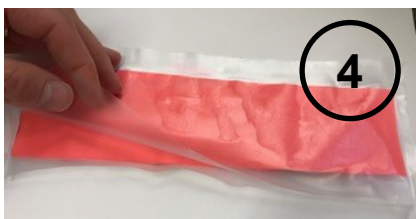
1. Venture outside to find your natural objects! Light weight objects that can flatten easily are best.



2. Arrange your objects on a strip of sticky contact paper the size of your paper strip.



3. Place a strip of colored paper on top of the objects, then press the paper down onto the objects and contact paper to stick.



4. Press a second piece of contact paper on the back side of the paper strip.



5. Use scissors to cut off excess contact paper around the edges.

6. Enjoy your bookmark. Happy reading!





Make a Garden Fairy

Create your own garden fairy! Included in this kit are a few supplies to help you make your own unique fairy. When you are finished, bring your fairy outside to play and/or “plant” your fairy in the garden!

Supplies provided in kit:

- Craft sticks
- Artificial flower petals
- Yarn
- Felt squares
- Fairy template

Supplies from home/nature:

- Scissors
- Glue
- Crayons and/or markers

DIRECTIONS: Option 1

Use the craft stick as a body for your puppet. Add features using the included supplies and any supplies from home you'd like!



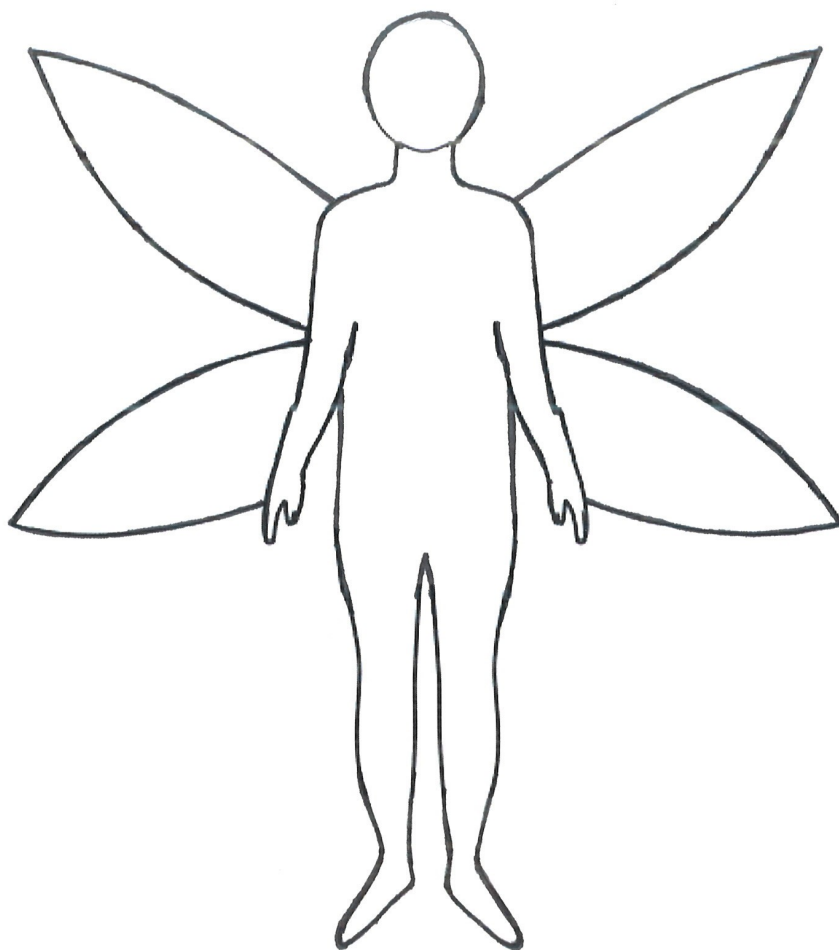
DIRECTIONS: Option 2

Use the fairy template provided. Add your own features with crayons or markers from home. Cut out your fairy and glue it to the provided craft stick.



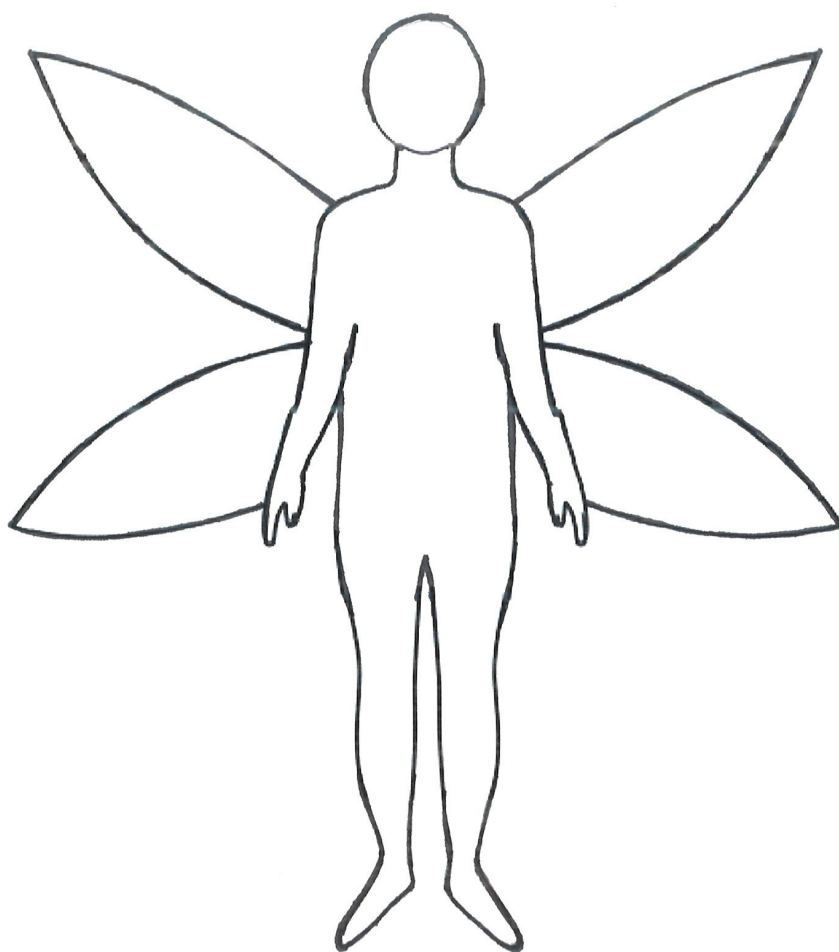


Fairy Template





Fairy Template





Build a Bug House

Many bugs seek shelter to make it through Minnesota's cold winters. At the end of summer, you can help provide shelter for hibernating bugs! The activity included in this kit is from *Plant, sow, make, & grow: mud-tastic activities for budding gardeners* by Esther Coombs (2019).

Supplies provided in kit:

- Twine

Supplies from home/nature:

- Plastic bottle (with a handle is helpful)
- Scissors
- Hollow polls (the dried stems of sunflowers or sweet corn plants work well)
- Small branches and twigs
- A few handfuls of dried grasses and/or straw
- Scraps of newspaper, small pine cones or pieces of corrugates cardboard.



Some insects die when fall comes and temperatures start to drop, but others look for a safe spot to overwinter before reappearing in spring. Help our wildlife good guys, such as solitary bees and ladybugs, to stay in your garden by building them a bug house.

1. Cut off the flat end of the plastic bottle with scissors, leaving the large end open.
2. Fill the bottle with your gathered materials, with some bits poking out of the bottle to help the bugs find their way in. the material should fit tightly in the bottle and not fall out.
3. Tie a string to the handle and hang the bug house up.

Pictures of bug houses are included on back for inspiration!



Build a Bug House (*continued*)

There are many materials, enclosures, and configurations you can use to create a bug house, so improvise if you don't find the exact supply listed!

Below are a few pictures for inspiration!



Sources:

- (1) Gap Gardens Blog. https://www.gapphotos.com/GardensBlog/?attachment_id=994 (accessed 6/9/2021)
- (2) Free Kids Crafts. <https://www.freekidscrafts.com/easy-insect-hotel-for-children-to-make/> (accessed 6/9/2021)
- (3) Hull Permaculture Network. <https://hullpermaculture.wordpress.com/2015/04/27/litter-bug-homes/> (accessed 6/9/2021)
- (4) Biodiversity in Schools. <https://www.biodiversityinschools.com/build-a-bug-house.html> (accessed 6/9/2021)

