

Woodlands Nurseries

Crooklands ● Milnthorpe ● Cumbria ● LA7 7NJ
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A SCRAPBOOK FOR ALL SEASONS

When	All year round
What you need	a scrapbook sticky back plastic old seed catalogues a camera scissors glue paper felt pens and crayons

About this project

Help your children create a record of the garden so that they can appreciate the changing seasons and see the value of simple and regular observation. Recording things provides memories for the future.

The initial activity should take up to an hour. Then allow 15 to 20 minutes on a regular basis, perhaps fortnightly or every three weeks.

What to do

1. Ask your children to draw a picture of themselves in the garden, write the date and their address underneath it and stick it on the first page of their scrapbook.
2. They can collect leaves and plants from the garden and put them in their scrapbook. Help them to put sticky-backed plastic over them, and to write their names by them.
3. They can draw pictures of different parts of the garden.
4. Alternatively they can take photographs. Maybe they could choose one part, and take a picture of it on the first day of each month for a year. Then they can see how much everything changes.
5. Encourage them to keep their scrapbook near a window and draw or write the names of the birds they see coming into the garden over the different seasons.
6. Stick in the seed packets of any seeds they grow. Give them old seed catalogues to cut out pictures of plants they want to grow - or they may like to design their dream flowerbed!
7. They can draw, cut out and label any wildlife they find. They might see frogs, butterflies, hedgehogs, ladybirds, beetles, ants, bees, caterpillars, foxes - the list is endless.
8. Why don't you get them to ask other people in your family, or visitors, to add something to their book?

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Tips

- If fresh leaves and flowers are used in the scrapbook, tell your children not to choose thick, fleshy samples, as they will rot.
- Ensure they enclose the sample completely by using a larger piece of plastic than the sample. They can press samples if they wish, but this takes longer - up to six weeks under heavy weights. Some samples can be pressed and dried quickly using a microwave oven.
- Do not worry if the results of your children's endeavours don't match up to your expectations. Enjoy their efforts and praise them.
- You might be inspired to make your own scrapbook about the garden. Let them see you doing it, as this will add importance and value to their own work.
- Remind them to continue recording things in the scrapbook. Don't rely on them remembering.
- You might wish to encourage early information and communication technology skills and get the scrapbook going in digital format on the computer.