



Nature Tots

At Home

Helping
Wildlife

Storytime suggestion

'Tidy' by Emily Gravett.

As you read the story look at each page and try to spot all the places that animals are living. Talk about what will happen if Pete tidies those places away, where will the animals go, what will happen to them?

If you don't have the book, listen to it read aloud [here](#) under the 'Helping Wildlife' section.

Create some habitat piles

Natural materials

Following the story of Pete the badger, have a go at creating some new homes for animals. Collect natural materials when out on a walk then pile them up in a corner of your garden. You could also make a sign to remind yourself and others not to tidy it up. Visit your pile again in a few weeks to see how it has developed.

If you would like more ideas on creating hidey homes for animals download our activity sheet [here](#).

Survey your garden

Walk around your garden and see if you can spot any places you think animals could live. Talk about what would make good homes and what might be missing. Whilst you do this choose a small patch that you will leave to go wild. All you need to do is - nothing! Don't cut the grass or tidy away fallen leaves in this spot. Visit it again after a few weeks to see how it has changed and if anything else is living there. You could even keep a record of the changes using photos or a diary.





Make a garden bird feeder

Seeds, apples, string, pine cones, lard,

An easy way to help wildlife on your own doorstep is by feeding birds. In winter birds need lots of high energy food to help them keep warm and in the spring and summer they need plenty to help them feed their growing chicks. There are lots of different bird feeders you can make but remember that high energy foods are best (seeds, lard etc.) and to avoid using products with salt in them such as many peanut butters.

Download instructions on how to make our easy apple feeder [here](#)

Make a bug hotel

Natural materials, string, scissors

You can make a really simple bug hotel by gathering together natural materials that have a hollow in them such as canes or dried wild flower stems. Cut them into short lengths and then wrap them with a few leaves before tying the bundle with string. Hang your bug hotel in bushes or low down in trees or place it into a cosy corner of your garden.

If you would like to create a bug mansion we have activity sheets to show you how [here](#) and [here](#).

Make a bird bath

Shallow dish and stones

Water is incredibly important for wildlife and an easy way to attract more wildlife to your garden is by providing clean and accessible water.

Place a shallow bowl in an area where it won't be disturbed, add some small stones to the middle of the bowl and some larger stones at the edges to help mammals get out if they need to. Replace the water regularly and break any ice in winter. You could watch from a window to see if you get any visitors.

