



# Nature Tots

*At Home*

Spiders  
and  
shapes

## *Storytime suggestion*

'Walter's Wonderful Web' by Tim Hopgood.

Before you read the book talk why you think spiders make webs. Where might you find a web to look at?

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

## *Shapes in nature*

Think of all the shapes that Walter made with his web, can you remember what they look like and what they are called? On a piece of paper draw each of these shapes:

- \* triangle,
- \* circle,
- \* square,
- \* rectangle,
- \* diamond.

Now go outside and see if you can find anything in nature that matches any of those shapes. How easy is this? Are natural objects shaped like this or are they less regular?

Next collect some sticks and try to make the shapes on the floor using the sticks (you might need some long grass or a long leaf to make the circle). Each time practice naming the shapes.





## Hunt for spider webs

On a walk or in your garden hunt around for spider webs, they are particularly easy to spot on autumn days or frosty days but spiders do weave webs all year round you just need to know where to look. Try hunting for webs on tree trunks or in the tree branches, look in long grass especially on cool mornings before the dew dries up. If you find some, look carefully at the shapes the web is made up of – what can you see?

## Make a web

Gather some natural materials together and see if you can make the pattern of a web on the floor. What shapes will you use? How big will your web be? Can you create a spider from natural materials to sit on your web?

## Make a model spider

Count the legs on the picture of the spider below - how many does it have? Now make a model of a spider using clay, Play Doh or salt dough (recipe [here](#)) and use small sticks to create the legs. Make sure you have the right amount of legs by counting as you add them.

## Comparing legs

Go outside on a bug hunt, look under leaves and rocks or logs to see what animals you can find. How many legs does each one have? Do they have more or less than a spider?

