

# Helping Wildlife at Home

Explorers at Home Challenge 20/5/21



Our challenge this week was to do one new thing to help wildlife at home! Especially you small space heroes - those of us that either don't have a garden, or just a small outdoor space.

Here are some ideas for spaces big or small...

*Let us know what you do to help wildlife in your garden this month!*

## 1. Add some flowers!

This can be with a window box, hanging baskets, or tubs with herbs or other plants, and even using wall space for climbing plants like ivy and honeysuckle. It can be as simple as a pot with lavender in it next to your front door, it all helps provide food for important pollinators.

## 2. Leave the grass!

Why not join *No Mow May* and leave a small patch of grass in the garden or on the road side to grow long and allow flowers like daisies to grow. This can go into June and even July! We mentioned the Blue Hearts Campaign during the session, where people decorate blue wooden hearts and put them in the wild patches to show they are being managed for wildlife. Take a look at their website and see how you can get involved! It's a great activity to do with children, especially decorating the hearts! [www.bluecampaignhub.com](http://www.bluecampaignhub.com)

## 3. Add some water!

Leaving lots of sources of water for wildlife is important. If you have a small space, why not leave out a bird bath? It doesn't have to be brand new, it can even be an old bin lid! Leaving bee baths and hoverfly lagoons are great for small spaces too, and mini ponds are amazing for wildlife. They can be a small bucket dug into the ground or even an old sink. Make sure to keep the water topped up in the summer so wildlife have a place to drink and bathe.

## 4. Feed the birds!

Bird feeders are great at attracting our winged friends. It can be one that stands in the garden that is store bought or you can make one yourself. Check out our first episode of Explorers at Home on our website to see how to make your own! If you don't have a garden, there are those available to attach to walls/fences and even stick-on window bird feeders. (Just make sure you think about how easy it is to top up and what is below, just in case they fall off!)

## 5. Give them access!

Wildlife like hedgehogs and amphibians need small gaps (13cm) to get into our gardens. As people put up new fences around their outdoor spaces, these animals can't get in and find it harder to find enough food in their local patch. Check to see if there is access on all sides where you live. It can be cut out of a fence, dug under a wall or a gap under a gate.

## 6. Homes for wildlife!

This week's game was all about different homes for wildlife and we took a look at some man-made options we can add to our gardens/ buildings. There are lots of different types for different birds, as well as bat boxes, hedgehog homes and bee homes. Check out our website for more advice on these and also attached to this week's email is an instruction sheet for making a beetle bucket, a space for beetles to lay their eggs underground.