

For adults and children in the garden or outdoor space

Natural mobiles

Natural England wants to give a million children the chance to discover the outdoors. The natural world is a fascinating place to explore and our natural habitats together with the creatures and plants that live there can provide endless sources of fun. From your own back yard to the wilds of our national nature reserves, now is the time to make the most of the outdoors and go wild!

Together with Fiona Danks and Jo Schofield (www.goingwild.net), authors of Nature's Playground, Go Wild and Make it Wild (www.franceslincoln.com), we've produced these fantastic activity sheets to give you plenty of ideas of what you can get up to, what are you waiting for?



Making mobiles is a great way to provide natural decorations and discover more about using natural materials from the garden. Hang them up from the branches of a tree, indoors or outside the window where they can blow in the breeze.

What you need

- Twigs
- Bendy twigs or clematis, ivy or honeysuckle stems
- String or wool and a skewer
- Collection of natural materials to decorate the mobile, eg; seeds, leaves.
- Eggs for an Easter mobile





Making the Mobiles

- Choose a stick about 30cm/1 foot long
- Tie natural materials onto lengths of wool or string and hang them from the stick. It may be necessary to use a skewer or bradawl to make holes through some seeds in order to thread them onto the strings.
- Encourage the children to be inventive – can they make little creatures or miniature people to hang from the mobile? Perhaps a pig from a fir cone or a fairy with a rosehip for a head?
- Tie a length of string or wool to both ends of the stick so you can hang the mobile from a branch.

Easter mobile

Celebrate Easter with a festive mobile made from bendy twigs, painted eggs, feathers and a home-made bird's nest filled with chocolate eggs. This mobile is made from three different sized willow rings, joined with fine wires into an egg shape. A moss-lined nest filled with chocolate eggs was put in one of the rings and the rest of the mobile was decorated with hens' eggs and feathers.

Natural wind chimes

Can you collect natural materials that might make a sound? Try making natural wind chimes using empty snail shells, nut cases, twigs and pebbles. Or invite children to collect shells, pebbles and driftwood collected on seaside holidays and make a beach wind chime to decorate the garden.



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Safety tips

- Wash hands after working with natural materials
- Supervision essential for children using skewers or bradawls