

Make your own Word Walk!

SWINDON STORIES



Inspiring change through words



What?

A Word Walk is an outdoor trail for families and settings which combines reading with exploring the landscape. This booklet has been designed so you can use pictures or words left as clues or checkpoints along the trail to inspire conversations and activities with your child.

Where?

Settings such as playgroups and schools

- Local parks
- Walks in your local area
- Your own garden!

Why?

A Word Walk is an opportunity:

- for families to learn together
- for settings to take children into the outdoors to enhance their learning experience
- to introduce children to 'Lost Words' - nature words that they may not normally encounter

Research suggests that children have a much deeper and broader understanding of the world around them if they experience the outdoors. It promotes good health and wellbeing, and supports interaction and bonding.

Make your own trail!

Create a trail by putting these images around your outdoor setting. You could use a small plastic bag to protect the images in wet weather.

Help children name these animals and plants and chat to them about their characteristics:

- What colours would they be?
- What would they feel like to hold or touch?
- What do you think the animals would eat?
- Where do you think the plants would live in the outdoors – somewhere dark, somewhere light? Somewhere cold or somewhere warm?



Bramble



Starling



Bluebell



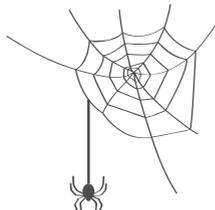
Magpie



Heron



Web



Ivy



Dandelion



Other activities

Magical poems

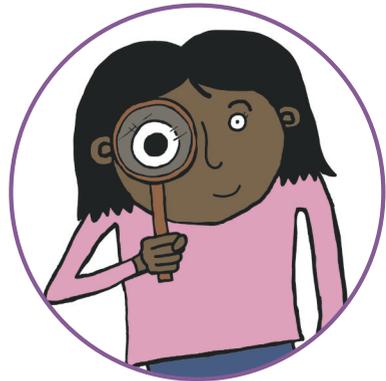
Why not use these poems like spells? Use a toy wand you already own, or find a stick and pretend – it doesn't take much to get children's imaginations going! Find a green spot to magic some animals into being...

Baa Baa Black Sheep

Baa baa black sheep, have you any wool?
Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full!
One for the master, one for the dame,
And one for the little boy who lives down the lane.

Incy Wincy Spider

Incy Wincy spider climbing up the spout
Down came the rain and washed the spider out
Out came the sunshine and dried up all the rain
And Incy Wincy spider climbed up the spout again.



Word Bingo

Make a list of objects you see every day in nature and put them on a word bingo sheet. Go for a walk with your child and see how many they can spot and cross off.

Tree	Bush	Dandelion	Acorn	Buttercup
Daisy	Grass	Leaf	Ladybird	Bee
Fern	Stinging nettle	Doc leaf	Butterfly	Bramble bush
Feather	Pine cone	Stick	Petal	Bluebell
Bird	Beetle	Ivy	Bark (of a tree)	Puddle

Idea: collect some of these objects from outside and use them to make your own nature table, basket or art collage

Swindon's own Lost Words!

The words below are all old Wiltshire dialect words that have been lost in Swindon's past.

Can you guess what they mean?

Old word

chamragging

daps

galley-bagger

moonraker

oss

thunderbox

Today's meaning

gossiping

plimsolls/trainers

scarecrow

born and bred in Wiltshire

horse

outside toilet!

Why not make them into a silly limerick?

A history in street names

- Cricklade Street in Old Town was once known as "Brock Hill". Brock means badger.
- Devizes Road was originally known as "Short Hedge".
- Newport Street used to be called "Bull Street" named after a pub called The Bull.
- Wood Street was once known as "Blacksmith Street" after its two forges.

To find out more about the history of your area or to research your family tree, visit the Local Studies collection at Swindon Central Library: www.swindon.gov.uk/localstudies

Places to explore in Swindon:

- Coate Water
- Faringdon Road Park
- Lawn Park
- Lydiard Park
- Queen's Park
- Shaw Forest Park
- Stanton Park
- Swindon Town Gardens