


# EYFS Creepy Crawlies Topic Busy Choosing Activities

*Some of these activities can be repeated and adapted by you to add challenge for your child in their play over the half term 😊*

Write clues about an insect. Ask a grown up or sibling in your house to read them and guess your creepy crawly or maybe post them to a friend and get them to guess.	Invent your own bug hotel using junk modelling. Leave outside for a while to see if you have any visitors. Make a pictogram to keep a record of the different insects that stayed over.	Observe the insects in your garden. Stop and take a moment to do an observational drawing of an insect you can see. Maybe add a challenge and try to label your drawing.	Get reading! Read words, labels, stories...read every day and as many things as you can! Maybe get someone to leave you clues to read which will lead you to some treasure!	Write an update in your nature diary! What has the weather been like? What nature have you spotted? What nature have you heard such as bird songs, crickets, or buzzing bees.	Practise your yoga skills; think about creating your own stretches based on different insects you know. It could be making a tall shape for a stick insect, rolling into a ball like a snail shell or sliding on your tummy like a slug.	With a timer, sit for five minutes by the window or in the garden. Draw or write everything you see.	Use natural items such as sticks and stones to create a picture or collage. It could be a portrait of you or your favourite minibeast, maybe of a family member or special place.
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<p>Whittling sticks is a great outdoor activity that can be almost meditative, and providing a potato peeler rather than a knife makes it much safer.</p> <p>You can use the peeler to whittle the bark off a stick, and then use felt tip pens, thread or wool to decorate it. Stick a feather to the end, and it becomes a magic wand, or wrap it in strips of white paper and add googly eyes to make a puppet. You could make a magic pen to draw insects into the soil.</p> <p>Whittling helps hand-eye coordination, and decorating the whittled sticks promotes creativity and imagination.</p> 	<p>Freeze some petals and flowers in water. Leave it on a plate/tray somewhere to melt and observe what happens over time.</p> <hr/> <p>Draw a picture and write a letter to a classmate.</p> <p><i>If you upload this to Tapestry we will tag your friend so they can see it!</i></p>	<p>House/Garden percussion. Find items around your house or garden that you can use as instruments. For example, collect a number of flowerpots of different shapes and sizes, and turn them upside down to use as drums. Do the bigger pots produce a different sound?</p>	<p>Use the sunshine to create shadows outside.</p> <p>Draw around your shadows using your chalk or place the objects on paper.</p>	<p>Make a cairn. Cairn's are man-made towers of natural stones, usually built as a landmark or a memorial, and making them is great fun. All you need to do is gather a range of flat rocks and pebbles in different sizes, and then stack them in order, with the largest at the bottom and the smallest at the top.</p> <p>Can you make changes to the structure of your cairn, such as using a foundation of lots of smaller stones, and see if it still stands?</p> <p>This will help improve gross and fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination and concentration as they experiment with finding the stones' balancing points to see how tall they can make their cairn.</p>	<p>Play a duplication game, go out and gather a small collection of items from the local environment, like feathers, pine cones, pebbles and leaves. Your child's challenge is to search the area for the same objects, and then come back to see how many they've managed to collect. This game will help them develop their memory and observation skills.</p>
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<p>3D Den Building. Use equipment you can find in your shed or outside such as large sticks, brooms, mops, chairs or branches and tie together with rope to create the frame of a den in a variety of 3D shapes, like cube, cuboid, square-based and triangular pyramids. Talk about the properties as you're building, and try to use a variety of different materials.</p>	<p><b>GET BUILDING!</b> You could make a Lego model, tower or construct something new. Add a caption (this is a short sentence) about your creation.</p>	<p>Create a tricky word splat game to hang in your house. Challenge your parents and siblings to a game.</p> <p>You could use your chalk to write the tricky words on the floor outside and jump on them to splat the words.</p>	<p>Draw your own adventure story – where will your characters go? What will they see?</p> <p>You could then write little captions for each part of your story.</p>	<p>Make a symmetrical butterfly painting. Paint one wing of your butterfly and then fold the paper to mirror your colourful design on the other wing. Talk with someone in your home about your choices of colour of pattern.</p>	<p>Set up your own obstacle course – think about what materials and equipment you are using. Can you travel under, over, through and around your equipment? Can you add in jumps, hops, stretches or rolls to challenge yourself?</p>	<p>Large construction – Can you build a large scale model using blocks, Lego, objects from around your house, maybe even stones and sticks. Think about how you will safely move different pieces of equipment, how can you make sure they are securely placed as part of your construction.</p>	<p>Find as many collections of ten things in your home as you can. Add them up counting in tens to see how many you have. You can always ask a grown up for help. You could do this to help you practise in twos and fives also.</p>
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<p>Go on a bug hunt. Make sure you have a plan of where you will be looking for bugs, exploring under stones, inside the leaves of plants, behind equipment in the garden, around tree trunks etc. Make a plan, set out what things you will need and keep a record of what you find. This could be writing a list of the insects, drawing a pictogram or creating a tick list perhaps.</p> <p>Once you have a list of the bugs you found, why not sort them by categories. You could use wings/no wings, spots/no spots, less than ten legs/more than ten legs etc. I would love to see or hear about some of the ways you sort them 😊</p>	<p>Take a crayon outside and around your home and make some rubbings of the different textures you find.</p> <hr/> <p>Draw a simple picture and then using scissors turn it into a puzzle!</p>	<p>Play I spy over the phone! Call a friend and ask them what they can see from their window</p> <hr/> <p>Make a cosy reading den or corner in the garden – Read a story to someone in your house or to the birds and creepy crawlies in your garden.</p>	<p>Make a restaurant inside or outside and serve your family.</p> <p>This could even become a potion café perhaps or a magic shop instead.</p> <p>Remember to make them a menu and write down their orders 😊</p>	<p>Explore adding and taking away at home. You could use stones and sticks outside or perhaps toys inside.</p> <p>Create your own calculations, or ask someone in your home to give you some to solve. See if you can find the largest adding calculation to 20.</p>	<p>Be helpful at home. Could help Hoover or polish when tidying up. Maybe you could make the lunch with some help.</p>	<p>Can you use drama to retell some of your favourite tales and stories to a friend over Facetime or perhaps to someone in your home.</p> <p>Maybe you could write and sing your own song or create a dance to your favourite music.</p>
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