Children use magnifying lenses to explore nature from a different perspective, and develop mathematical literacy.

# Nature Detectives 2



Keywords **observation • craft and creativity • movement • outdoors • indoors • Maths**

**1.** Observation Outdoors
Choose an area with flowers, ideally in the school grounds, but a countryside trip works too. This activity builds on earlier skills, adding observation and recording.

**2.** Setting Up the Workspace
Prepare playdough in different colours. Spread out a sheet or set up tables outdoors near the flowers. Place cutters and materials ready for the children.

**3.** Looking Closely at Flowers
Give children loupes to study the middle of flowers. Wonder together at the colours, shapes, and patterns. Ask questions:

“What shapes can you see?”

“Which are biggest/smallest/longest/shortest?”

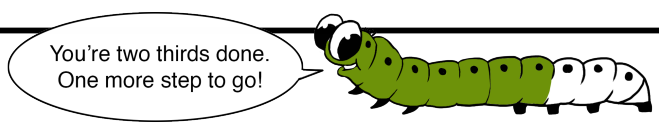
Important! Explain why flowers should not be picked or damaged, if we pick flowers the insects will go hungry.

**4.** Creating Playdough Flowers
Each child rolls and cuts different shapes from playdough. Provide a square of cardboard for building. Children run to the flower patch, look closely through their loupe, then run back and recreate the flower with playdough. The result may look different from the real flower and that’s fine! This part of the activity combines gross and fine motor coordination with observation and memory, together with maths and science.

**5.** Reinforce the idea of “I am like nature”

After building flowers, connect nature to identity: as a group, use playdough shapes to make a boy or girl figure. This reinforces the idea “I am like nature” and helps children bond with their surroundings.





Children use magnifying lenses to explore nature from a different perspective, and develop mathematical literacy.

# Nature Detectives 2



## Send photos of

- ☐ children outdoors looking at flowers through loupes
- ☐ children running to and fro and creating playdough flowers
- ☐ final display

## Resources & Equipment Needed

- Playdough;
- Sheet or tables to work on;
- Loupes;
- Shape cutters (square, triangle, circle, etc.);
- Cardboard squares (one per child);



