

Garden Crafts

All growing is joyful, whether that's planting daffodil bulbs and watching them bloom in spring, growing enough vegetables to eat all summer or nurturing a basil plant from the supermarket. That joy can extend beyond just growing. We've put together a list of activities which can help you get a bit crafty with growing, so get stuck in and don't forget to share your creations with us **@SAFoodforLife!**

Reuse old tin cans

(adult supervision required)

Collect old drinks cans and cut horizontally to create rings about two inches wide. File down the edges to remove any sharpness and then shape them into stars to hang in the garden and deter birds from getting to your growing plants.

Get creative with leaves

Leaves, with all their intricate veins and varied shapes, make fantastic prints. Collect a variety of different leaves and paint them with non-toxic acrylic paint before pressing onto a piece of paper. You'll be left with a colourful leaf print that can be layered to create a mesmerising pattern. For a less messy option, placing leaves underneath plain paper and then gently rubbing crayon over the top will leave the outline of the leaves.



Paint your flowerpots

Jazz up your flowerpots with some non-toxic acrylic paint. Give them a gentle clean before marking out your design lightly with pencil – or freestyle it – and then painting over with acrylics. You could paint wildlife-themed designs like bees and ladybirds or paint a pattern or picture of what you're growing.

Dry your flowers

Pick some of your favourite blooms and carefully place them in between two paper towels and then between two heavy, flat items, or in the middle of a big book. Stack more books or heavy items on top to weigh it down and in about ten days you'll have dried flowers to use in crafting, or just to display around the house.

Make your own plant markers

Save up the wooden sticks from lollipops, collect some plain pebbles, or cut up a yoghurt pot into sticks and then decorate with colours and patterns. You could use pens, felt-tips or paints. Once dry, use a black marker to carefully write the name of your plant on so you don't lose track of what's growing!

Create a miniature garden

A broken plant pot can be repurposed into a lovely miniature garden to add some magic to your garden. Fill your plant pot as high as you can with soil and then arrange the broken pieces on top to create terraces and balconies. A broken piece can be wedged into the soil halfway up to create a plant balcony, or you could use smaller pieces to create steps. Just be careful of any sharp edges! Fill the soil with plants of your choice – even weeds work well for this – pretty pebbles and any miniature ornaments and houses you might be able to find in your local charity shops.



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