



## Celebrating Earth Day – The Social Distancing Way

Today, 22<sup>nd</sup> April, is Earth Day - a day to recognize the wonderful things about our planet. This year Earth Day is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year!

Due to COVID-19, and in order to observe social distancing to protect yourselves and the NHS, getting together with the wider community is not recommended. There are, however, still ways you can celebrate this special day at home. The following activities are great for children and adults to do together 😊

### Build A Bird House

Recycle a cardboard box to make a bird house. You can then add nuts and seeds and hang it somewhere high for birds to visit and eat.

### Oil and Water Experiment

This is so simple to do and a great way to show your children the devastating effects of oil spillage on our planet:

- Take a large bowl or tray and fill it half way with water.
- Ask your child to spill some oil in it. You can use vegetable, sunflower or olive oil, whichever you have.
- Ask your child to try and mix the oil and water together. S/he can use their fingers, a spoon or a fork. When the water and oil cannot be mixed explain to your child that this is what happens when oil is spilled in our oceans.

The link below is a great conversation starter for you and the children. At the end you can think of ways to combat the threat of oil spills and/or ways to help clean up the environment based on the images they see.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNmBK1eTEs8>

### Create Dry Seed Balls

Combine one part seeds with five parts compost and 3 parts clay powder or clay soil. Add a few drops of water and shape into balls then lay into the sun to dry. In a few days they will be ready to plant and your child will enjoy making these and watching them grow over time.



### Litter Picking

Take two plastic bags with you on your daily walk and pick up litter you see. In one bag put items that can be taken home and placed in your recycling bins and in the other bag put items that cannot be recycled and you can put in a waste the bin.

### Earth Day story links

Here are some additional links associated with Earth Day:

- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOvcW8l3RzE>
- Earth Day Song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfhyXx1kCz0>
- Earth Book <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpEc5nHgO2c>

Have fun and Happy Earth Day 😊