

## Nature Suncatchers

Imagine you are on a walk with your family. You walk down your block and notice that all of the windows on your street glow with beautiful nature suncatchers. What a great surprise to brighten your day! Have you ever made art out of items collected in nature? If you haven't tried it, this is your chance. Just follow these basic instructions, get outside, and have some fun!

### Supplies (most are optional):

1. Scissors
2. Pencil
3. Glue (white glue or hot glue)
4. 8 Popsicle sticks or 1 Paper plate
5. Hole punch (for paper plate suncatcher)
6. Plastic wrap, Press N Seal, or contact paper
7. String, rope, yarn
8. Nature Items (leaves, rocks, sticks, flowers, moss, nature stickers)
9. Bag to collect items

### Steps:

1. Go out to your garden or park and collect interesting nature items
  - a. Don't forget your bag and mask
  - b. Collect items found on the ground
  - c. Only pick a flower if there are 10 or more (or if you have permission)
  - d. Flower petals can be found on the ground
  - e. Wash your hands when you are done

### Popsicle Stick Suncatcher

2. Glue 4 popsicle sticks together to make a square
3. Repeat with the other 4 sticks, so you have two squares
4. Put some glue on one square
5. Place plastic wrap or Press N Seal on top of the glued square, with the "sticky" side up
6. Lay out all of your found items, on half the plastic
7. Fold the plastic over and press down on your nature design
8. Trim the plastic to fit the square
9. Put glue in two spots on the top of the square and attach rope, ribbon, or string
10. Put more glue on the second square and place it on top of the plastic
11. Let it dry
12. Place in a window to brighten someone's day

### Paper Plate Suncatcher

1. Cut out the center of your paper plate (get a guardian for help)
2. Trace two circle onto the contact paper (make them slightly larger than your hole)
3. Cut out traced circles
4. Remove the film from contact paper and place down with the sticky side up
5. Press the paper plate onto the sticky contact paper



6. Lay out all of your found items, get creative
7. Remove the film from the second contact paper circle
8. Place the second circle, sticky side down, onto your nature design
9. Use a hole punch to make two holes
10. String ribbon, rope, or string through the holes and tie a knot
11. Place in a window to brighten someone's day

Share your nature journal with us! [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [Joy@acparks.org](mailto:Joy@acparks.org)

#### Parent Resources:

Exploring nature while collecting nature objects is an opportunity for children to get fresh air and exercise while practicing the scientific skills. The skills of observation, focus, planning, and imagining are all part of the scientific process. This project will also enhance their creative process, imagination, and even fine motor skills.

Kids Gardening (<https://kidsgardening.org/>)

- Garden based lessons and activities to do at home.

Life Lab (<https://www.lifelab.org/2020/03/root-view-cups/>)

- The definitive resource for garden science exploration.

The Artful Parent (<https://artfulparent.com/nature-art-for-kids/>)

- Great ideas for nature-based art and exploration

The Craft Train (<https://www.thecrafttrain.com/21-ways-create-art-nature/>)

- Craft ideas for kids

Make sure to snap a photo of your child's creation and share it with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or even email it to [Joy@acparks.org](mailto:Joy@acparks.org)