



Garden Visitors

Home Learning Pack

Included in this pack:

- Reading practice
Year 1 – The Robin
Year 2 – The Robin
- Writing Task – A Visitor to the Garden
- Garden Birds Identification Chart
- Garden Babies matching cards
- Design a garden activity
- Bird Spotting Journal

This home learning pack is designed for children in years 1 and 2 to complete, with some adult support where possible, over a week. This pack contains fun, engaging opportunities to develop and practise reading and writing skills that can be completed within a child's home environment, based around the topic of 'Garden Visitors'. Activity sheets are provided – but if you do not have access to a printer, all activities could be completed using any paper or writing books that you have at home.

For teachers' reference, the pack covers these key curricular skills:

Reading

- to apply phonic knowledge and skills to read words;
- read accurately blending sounds in words;
- to answer questions about what they have read.

Writing

- year 1, to write simple sentences;
- year 2, to write a character description.

Science

- to identify and name a variety of common animals – birds
- notice that animals, including offspring, have offspring that grow into adults

Geography

- to devise a simple map and use basic symbols for a key

A week's worth of activities are described on the next pages, with helpful information for adults explaining how to use these resources with your child. They are designed to be as fun, practical and creative as possible – nurturing children's natural curiosity, developing their literacy skills, and keeping learning lively!

Activities

Reading practice

Read the **text** with your child that is suitable for their year group. More confident readers should be able to read the text independently.

Year 1 – discuss the questions after each short section of reading.

Year 2 – discuss the questions after reading the whole text.

The questions could be answered orally, or your child could write the answers. The reading practice activity could be completed in sections if needed.

Writing task – A Visitor to the Garden

Reread the **reading practice text** with your child. Discuss how the robin is described.

Using the activity sheet **A Visitor to the Garden**, ask your child to draw a different bird that might visit the garden. You could use the **Garden Birds Identification Chart** to help them with this if needed. They should then continue the story on the sheet, writing a description of the bird. Remind Year 2 children, that this should be in the style of a story, rather than as a list of sentences.

Garden Birds Identification Chart

Use the **Garden Birds Identification Chart** to name birds that come into your garden. If you do not have a garden, you could observe them from your window or whilst out on a walk. Encourage your child to look carefully at the identification chart to find any distinctive patterns or colours that each bird has to help them identify them. Use the space at the bottom of the sheet to draw any other birds or animals that you see.

Garden Babies

Your child will enjoy finding out about animal babies that you may find in your garden. Use the **Garden Babies matching cards** to match the adults with their offspring. They could find out about other animal babies and make their own cards.

Design a garden

Invite your child to draw their dream garden using the **worksheet** provided or paper that you have at home. This should be drawn as a map. Remind them that a map is drawn as if you are looking down on something from above. It may be useful to show your child examples of maps. If in year 2, encourage them to also include a key, again, looking at examples if you have some.

Bird Spotting Journal

Your child can record what birds they see in their garden (or outside their window) daily using this **journal**. Encourage your child to label any pictures that they draw and use the **Garden Birds Identification Chart** to name them.

Activities

Other activities for children to try

- Find out more about different bird species and create a fact file giving information about their habitat, where they nest, food, bird song and how they move.
- Create pictures of different birds, or other visitors to your garden, using paints or pencils. Or perhaps your child could create a collage, finding colours from magazines or leaflets that they could cut out to create the feathers of a bird.
- Make a bird feeder to feed the birds in your garden. You can use bird seed, lard and a yoghurt pot to make a tasty treat for your garden visitors.
- Sort animals into groups. You could cut out the images from the [Garden Birds Identification Chart](#) or use the adult animal images from the [Garden Babies card match](#) to sort the animals into mammals, birds, amphibians etc. Or by colour, size, or any other way your child would like to sort them.