

Top 10 Tips

If you've visited the Discover Nature part of our website, you'll know that each season we like to post our Top 10 Tips for Outdoor Family Adventures at Castle Howard.

Now that we're all spending much more time at home and in our own gardens, we've come up with some new tips and ideas to make the most of things closer to home until we're able to welcome you back at Castle Howard.

1 Take a look at our **Seasonal Spotters Guide**. At Castle Howard this spring, we're keeping an eye out for colourful wildflowers, cheerful daffodils and tulips as well as nesting birds and fluttering butterflies. Can you see any of these from your garden or window, or on your daily walk? Create your own Spotters Guide with what you see near you this spring. Keeping a record like this makes you really notice and take joy in the little things around you and appreciate each season.



2 The sloping North Lawn at Castle Howard is a great place to relax, or roll down! Turn your lunch into a picnic and take it into your garden, do a spot of cloud watching or see how many roly polys you can do.



3 We're all missing Skelf Island, our adventure playground, but play can be had anywhere with anything. Create your own playground obstacle course in your garden or house using the things you find around you. Skipping ropes, splashing through paddling pools, ball and spoon races, weaving around plant pots... Practice your ninja skills and see how fast you can complete it.



4 Our Castle Howard Explorer Packs are full of fun nature-based activities and many of them can be replicated at home:

5 Go on a bug hunt round your garden, peering in flowers and lifting up stones to see what you can find. Take a look at the bugs you see and identify them using a book or online. Try and remember one fact about each of them.



6 Look out for garden birds starting to make their nests. Use a pair of binoculars or make some from empty loo rolls or cardboard tubes. Join them together with another bit of cardboard and decorate them to make your own personalised pair.

7 Take some paper and crayons and do some bark rubbings. Different trees have different textures. Make a tree picture from the different rubbings.

8 Nothing beats a game of hide and seek. Our favourite hiding place is under the drooping branches of the Castle Howard Holm oak tree. It makes a great den. Where's the best place to hide at your house? Count to 100 and get searching!

9 Castle Howard is full of amazing paintings and works of art. Be inspired by what's around you and make a collage of things you find like petals, twigs, and leaves to create your own masterpiece.

10 The Castle Howard sensory trail encourages visitors to explore the Estate through their different senses. Make a map of your house and garden or local area using just your senses. What can you hear, smell, taste, touch and see? Draw these things on your map and label locations.



CASTLE HOWARD