

Celebrate Earth Day All Month Long with Fun Family Activities!

April has arrived, and it's time to turn our love for the planet into a month-long celebration! From planting adventures to nature scavenger hunts, we've got a lineup of fun, family-friendly ideas that will not only bring smiles to your little ones' faces but also instill a love for our beautiful Earth.

What is Earth Day?

Every April 22, people celebrate Earth Day to show how much they care about the planet. It started in 1970 when people came together to talk about how important it is to care for Earth. Since then, it has become a global event where over a billion people join in activities to show they care about keeping Earth safe and healthy.

Why Teach Kids about Earth Day?

You can start teaching your child about Earth Day and how our actions affect the planet at any age — the earlier, the better! Learning how to care for the environment teaches them:

- To become smart problem-solvers. They can learn about big challenges like climate change and pollution and think of creative ways to fix them.
- That they can make a difference. While children may be small, their influence is mighty. They can help the planet by recycling, saving water, and asking their friends to do it, too.
- To appreciate the wonders of the great outdoors and why preserving it is essential.



So, teaching kids about Earth Day is good for them and the whole planet, too!

Fun Family Activities to Celebrate the Earth

Here are some simple activities to celebrate Earth Day with your little ones. Remember to keep activities short and sweet. The goal is to learn about nature and caring for the environment while having loads of fun!

Bake Earth Day-inspired cookies.

Earth Day cookies will be fun for the kids to make and even more fun for them to eat. Whip up your favorite sugar cookie recipe, or buy some ready-to-bake dough. Then, color half the batch blue and the other half green with food coloring. Then, take bits of each batch of colored dough to form a ball into a delicious worldly creation. Talk about a sweet way to honor Mother Nature!



Create a Bug Hotel

Your little ones will love making a bug hotel from toilet paper tubes, a milk carton, twigs, leaves, and other bits of nature. A bug hotel attracts insects and bugs, giving them a cozy, safe place to stay. Activity from <https://happytoddlerplaytime.com/how-to-make-a-bug-hotel-fun-craft-for-kids/>

Feed the Birds

Here are two simple bird feeders you can make at home.

- A Cheerio feeder. Gather three pipe cleaners, O-shaped cereal, and yarn or string. Bend one end of the pipe cleaner so the cereal O's don't fall off. Then, help your child thread the cereal onto all three pipe cleaners, leaving a bit of room at each end. Next, twist the three together to make any shape bird feeder you want! To finish, tie the string or yarn around a pipe cleaner so the bird feeder can be hung up for the birds. Activity from <https://happyhooligans.ca/cheerio-bird-feeders/>

- A Pine cone feeder. Gather a large pinecone, string, peanut butter or vegetable shortening, and bird seed. Cover the pine cone in peanut butter (or shortening if there are allergies), roll it in birdseed, and attach a string. Activity from <https://carnegiemnh.org/make-your-own-pinecone-bird-feeder/>



Go on a Nature Hunt

Take your child on a nature hunt in your backyard or a nearby park. Challenge them to find leaves and flowers in different shapes and colors, plants of different textures – smooth, bumpy, scratchy, etc. It's a hands-on way to introduce them to the wonders of the natural world.

Look at the Stars

When the sun goes down, it's time for a family stargazing night. Lay out some blankets, look up at the twinkling stars, and share stories about the night sky. Taking in the magic and beauty of the night sky is sure to give your child a whole new perspective on planet Earth.

Make Earth Art

Engage your child's creative side by doing Earth-themed art. Finger-painting a globe, making hand print trees, or even using recycled materials to create a collage can be a blast. It's messy but oh-so-fun!



Plan a Picnic

Have a little Earth-friendly picnic in your backyard or a nearby park. Use reusable plates, cups, and utensils. This reduces waste and introduces the idea of being kind to the Earth.

Play a Recycling Game

Create a simple recycling sorting game at home. Use different bins or containers and let your child sort items like paper, plastic, and cardboard. Make it a fun activity by turning it into a little competition or a song.

Plant a Garden: Planting a little garden together is like creating a mini-nature wonderland in your own backyard. Choose easy-to-grow plants or flowers and watch them bloom as the month goes by. You can explain how plants help make the air clean and nice to breathe.

Read Earth Books at Storytime

There are plenty of colorful and engaging children's books about nature, recycling, and conservation. Head to the library for classics like "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss or "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein and many newer planet-friendly books for kids of all ages.

Sprout some Seeds

Get some seeds (easy-to-grow ones like sunflowers or beans), and let your child plant them in small pots. Teach them how to water the seeds and watch as the plants start to grow. It's a wonderful way to show them the magic of nature.



Remember, every little action counts, and celebrating Earth Day isn't just about one day; it's about creating habits that show our planet love all year round.

Additional Resources

- Sesame Street Earth Day Song <https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/I435O6hErkY>
- 15 Ways to Celebrate Earth Day With Kids <https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/15-ways-to-celebrate-earth-day-with-kids>

 [Pollywog Facebook](#)

 [Pollywog Website](#)

 [Pollywog Instagram](#)

 [Pollywog YouTube](#)

Pollywog Family
6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, LM-132
Albany, OR 97321
541-917-4884, pollywog@linnbenton.edu

Copyright © Pollywog 2017, All rights reserved.