





# Hedgework: Engaging Through Your Senses Family Guide

Author: Margaret Gillis, PhD

**Families:** Here are some ways you and your child(ren) can explore the hedge through the senses and record or represent their observations. This list is just a starting place - there are endless ways for children to explore and show what they have observed and learned.

*\*Please do not eat the berries on the plants - they are not safe for humans to eat.*

## Explore the Hedge

	<b>Sight</b>	<b>Smell</b>	<b>Sound</b>	<b>Touch</b>
<b>Ways to explore the hedge</b>	<p>Observe the insects, birds, and other creatures that visit the hedge</p> <p>Look through the viewers to observe the butterfly hotel and what the hedge might look like in the future</p> <p>Ask the hedge a question to learn more about the plants, animals, insects, weather, soil conditions, and more!</p>	<p>Lean in to smell the flowers, plants, and dirt</p> <p>Notice differences in how wet or damp soil smells compared to dry soil</p>	<p>Listen to the sound of the wind moving through the plants</p> <p>Observe the sounds of the insects, birds, and other animals that visit the hedge</p> <p>Visit the link below to hear music inspired by Hedgework</p>	<p>Feel the texture of the different plants in the hedge</p> <p>Feel the different surfaces in and around the hedge - the benches, rocks, soil - and their characteristics</p> <p>Notice variation in temperature in different parts of the hedge or on different surfaces</p>
<b>Example questions to ask your child as they explore</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you see?</li> <li>• What lives inside the hedge?</li> <li>• How many kinds of plants are in the hedgerow?</li> <li>• How many kinds of insects do you see?</li> <li>• What colors do you see in the hedge?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which plants or flowers smell the best to you?</li> <li>• What does the hedge smell like?</li> <li>• How does the shady side of the hedge smell compared to the sunny side of the hedge?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does the hedge sound like to you?</li> <li>• Which insects are the loudest?</li> <li>• If you were a bird visiting the hedge, what song would you sing?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do the different plants feel?</li> <li>• Which parts of the hedge are hard or soft?</li> <li>• How does the wind feel when it blows on you?</li> </ul>
<b>Interact with the hedge</b>	 <p>with the hedge and its inhabitants: <a href="https://chat.hedgework.net">https://chat.hedgework.net</a></p>  <p>HEDGEWORK</p>		 <p>to the hedge and its soundtrack: <a href="https://listen.hedgework.net">https://listen.hedgework.net</a></p>  <p>HEDGEWORK</p>	

## Sample ways to record or represent observations

- Draw an interpretation of what they observe (the hedge, the inhabitants of the hedge)
- Draw what they observe using “science eyes” (trying to get as close as possible to an accurate representation)
- Write about or dictate their observations
- Make notes about the responses to the questions they received from the hedge chat
- Draw, write, or dictate what their hedge would include if they were to build a hedgerow
- Move their body in the ways that the plants, insects, birds, and animals in the hedge move
- Imitate the sounds they hear in the hedge
- Build a plant, an animal, or a whole hedgerow using pipe cleaners, popsicle sticks, or blocks
- Compose a multimedia art piece of a hedge with different textures using crayons, markers, glue, and pipe cleaners
- Sing a song inspired by the hedge
- Write or dictate a short story about the hedge and its inhabitants

## Ways to support children’s active exploration

- Rather than telling children what something is or how it works, use questions and comments to encourage them to explore and find out more on their own
- Ask open-ended questions (questions that solicit more than yes/no or one-word responses)
- Ask follow-up questions building on children’s statements that get them to expand their thinking and go deeper
- Provide resources for children to gain more information to inform them

