

Fingerprint bees

Bees are key pollinators but are in decline around the UK. With over 30,000 different kinds of plants and over 16 different types of bee, Kew is an ideal environment for researching bees and pollination. Bees love our spring crocuses and scented cherry blossom. With your child, explore the flowers and bees in your local area. At home, create some bee art using your fingers and some paint!

You will need:



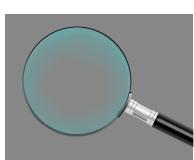
Paper



Paint



Coloured
pencils or
crayons



Magnifying
glass
(optional)

- With your child, go for a walk in your local woodland or park, or visit Kew Gardens or Wakehurst. Use your senses to explore:
Look for colourful spring flowers.
Smell their delicate scent.
Listen to the bees buzzing.

Top tip: Use a magnifying glass if you have one but be careful not to get too close to the bees!

- Bees like to drink sweet nectar from the flowers. When they find food, they let other bees know by doing the waggle dance.

Play idea: With your child, flap your wings and fly from flower to flower. Turn in a circle and waggle your bottom from side to side.

- When you get home, lay out the paper and paint. Help your child to make yellow bee fingerprints and colourful flower fingerprints.

Once the paint has dried, you can add detail using coloured pencils or crayons.

Top tip: Let your child take the lead – handprints could also make excellent flowers or grass!

Share your photos @kewgardens



Taking it forwards:

Scientists at Kew have found that flowers play an important role in stopping disease spread between pollinators. Help the bees by planting bee-friendly plants in your garden or in plant pots on your balcony or windowsill. With your child, observe how many different types of bee visit.