

Colour and collecting strips

An activity using pieces of cardboard which have a strip of double sided tape on it onto which visitors can stick small pieces of natural things they find on their walk, which they can take home as a memory. Suitable for all ages, younger children (under 5) will need help, especially getting the top tape off the sticky bit!

You will need

- Rolls of double sided tape
- Cereal packets or cardboard pieces cut into strips wide enough to accommodate the tape with a bit extra on each side
- You should provide enough strips for at least 2 per family or one for each child



When and where to do this

This can be done throughout a farm tour or at one of the 'stops' chosen for a rich selection of wildflowers and grasses (field margins, beetle banks). This simple, but effective activity requires little preparation time and should be done to encourage people to look closely at the world around them; to notice the variety of plants, leaves and flowers.



Whilst they are doing this they will see insects and bugs flying, creeping and crawling in different habitats.

Ask your visitors to find many different colours from plants and other natural things - on the ground, in the hedgerow and in the fields (obviously the winter months are less colourful but the example in the photo was done in December!). They need to pull off the top tape to reveal the sticky surface underneath and then pick very small pieces of the colours about the size of your thumb nail to stick on the tape. Encourage them to leave the insects where they find them, they will not recover once they are stuck onto the tape!

You will be amazed at the care and attention people give to this simple activity and it will generate some interesting comments, giving you the ideal opportunity to talk about the benefits of farming with wildlife in mind. Your visitors will look at these when they get home and remember the wonderful day they have had on the farm.

Suggested messages

- Farms are wonderful places to find all kinds of natural treasures
- Farmers play an important part in caring for the countryside and encouraging biodiversity
- All plants and animals, however small, are part of a food chain and are all important