

# Trails on the farm



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# Trails on the farm



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# Trails on the farm



## Introduction

Trails are a popular way of taking groups of children around farms and other outdoor locations. Self-guided trails have many advantages because each group takes itself around the site without the help of additional staff.

Many different types of self-guided trail can be prepared for groups to use. These include Maths, History, Poetry, and Sensory to name a few. The trails can also be presented in many different ways.

Adapt some of the ideas presented here to suit your own location.

# Trails on the farm



## Sensory Trails

Trails designed to test the senses are very popular and easy to create. The following sample trails can be guided by an adult or you can prepare simple instruction cards to be collected (and returned!) by the children.

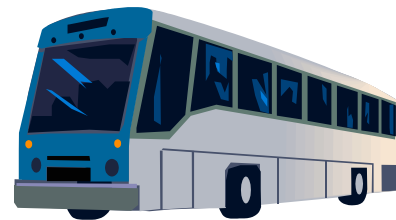
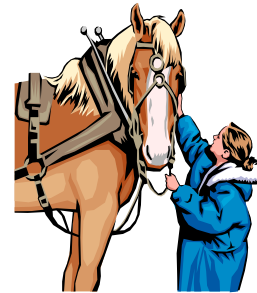
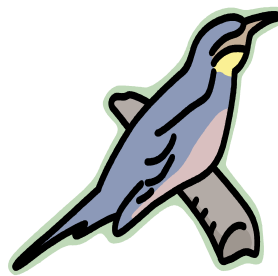
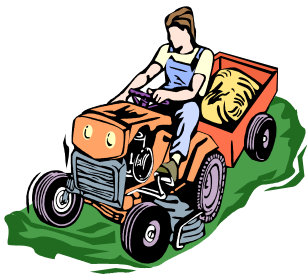
## Listening Trail

Indicate some places on the farm as Listening Points.

Stand very still with your eyes closed for one minute. Listen very carefully. At the end of a minute either draw pictures on a postcard to show the sounds you heard or tick the pictures on the sheet provided. (Print the next page or make up your own).

# Trails on the farm

## Listening trail



# Trails on the farm



## Colour collections

This is a very simple and engaging activity. All you need to supply are some sticky labels!

You are going to make a colour collection using a sticky address label. Collect small pieces of as many different colours as possible and attach them to the sticky side of the label. You can try to collect many shades of one colour if you prefer.



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## Six treasured textures

Children love collecting things. This activity combines the attraction of a treasure hunt with an incentive to think about texture. The only materials you need to supply are empty egg boxes.

Find six objects to store in the egg box. The objects you choose must be in pairs with opposing textures e.g. hard and soft. Talk to a friend or your adult about your treasured items. What words would you use to describe the items?



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## History trail

What has changed on the farm? The success of this activity depends on whether you have old photos available of your farm/premises. You need only a few which you can copy and insert into the table on the next page.

The trail involves going around the farm to see if the locations of the photos can still be recognised.



# Trails on the farm



## History trail

What has changed on the farm?

Location

What's the  
same?

What has  
changed?

Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 3

Picture 4

# Trails on the farm



## Shapes trails

Younger children will enjoy finding shapes on the farm. You can give them a sheet with the names of shapes on it (triangle, circle etc) and they set off on a designated, safe route to look for as many of these shapes as possible.

Alternatively, split the visitors into smaller groups, each with a different shape to find.

The third option is to use pictures of shapes on the farm (see examples on the next page) and children use this as an I Spy sheet.

# Trails on the farm



# Trails on the farm

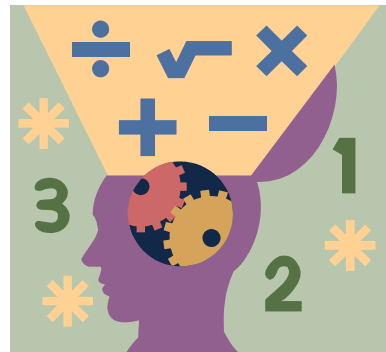


## Maths Trails

Maths is all around us! Create some questions involving easy maths skills. See the next page for ideas.

Prepare a simple map of your farm/location. Indicate on the map where the answers can be found to the maths questions.

You can make it easier by adding a photo to each of the questions so the children know they are looking in the right place.



# Trails on the farm



## Maths trails



1. How old was the 1st Earl of Leicester when this portrait was painted?



2. Looking at the gates, how many shapes can you find?



3. Standing at this sign, 4th street is pointing towards North. In which compass direction is Avenue K?



4. How many bricks are there in this wall? How did you work out your answer?

# Trails on the farm



## Poetry trail

You are a Poetry Detective. Use your map to follow a trail of poems round the farm.

A

White paint, dry grass  
Wooden walls, dirty glass

This is a rhyming couplet. There are two lines and the last words of each line rhyme.

Look around you and see if you can write a rhyming couplet of your own

B

There's nothing prowling here.  
No snarling tiger or angry lion  
No leaping monkeys or slithering snakes.  
Just something caged in and silent.  
What is it?

*(It was a gas tank!)*

# Trails on the farm



C.

An acrostic is a special kind of poem in which the lines are arranged above one another so that some of the letters, read downwards, make a word.

Fill in the gaps and see what the poem is about!

P□inting high into the clouds

St□nding firm on solid ground

Crea□ing in the gusty wind

Making carpe□s all around

In summe□'s heat they cast their shade

In wint□r storms they show no fear

Th□y stand so tall and stout and strong

How many year□ have they stood here?

# Trails on the farm



D.

Here's a puzzle rhyme, called a riddle. Each line tells you a letter of the word and the rhyme finishes by telling you what the whole word is. You might see one on the farm today!

My first will be found in SEAT and THRONE  
My second's in CRY and also in GROAN  
My third is in APPLE and also in PEAR  
My fourth's not in SOFA but is found in CHAIR  
My fifth is in LITTLE twice, but not in BIG  
My sixth hides in CANOPY and not in TWIG  
My seventh's in RUN and also in RACE  
My whole is a vehicle used in this place.

*(Answer: TRACTOR)*

# Trails on the farm



Haiku poems have three lines of 5,7 and 5 Syllables. See if the children can work out which animals are described here:

Tongue like sandpaper  
Swishing tail beats away flies  
Mouth chewing endlessly

Bounding and yapping  
Welcoming and frightening  
Black bundle of fur

Scratching in the soil  
Making dust baths under trees  
Laying warm brown eggs

Have a go at writing a haiku poem yourself!