



Daycare Inspiration:
**71 Nursery Trip
Ideas**



Why Day Trips Matter

How often do you take your kids out of the nursery?

Day trips matter. There's something magical about taking children outside of their normal environment and showing them new things to see and explore. But more importantly, trips are a springboard for topics and play when you return to the setting.

Unlike school trips, nursery trips are not really about being strictly educational. But they should be stimulating for the children - an opportunity to expand on topics, open up their imaginations, and help them find new ways to explore the world around them through their play.

The beauty in that? There is a whole wealth of options that you can choose from, because all these trips have to do is intrigue little brains and inspire new interests and ideas.

Even going out on the trip itself helps build confidence and social skills, and helps you as a provider to build relationships in the local community.

Sounds like a no brainer to us.

Yes, you have to write up risk assessments, get the ratios right and plan for all weather (this is the UK) but we reckon it's worth the time.

So whether you start out small with a trip to the park or go for an all day adventure to the zoo, remember - it's a bonus for Ofsted, a great selling point for prospective parents, and most important of all, a meaningful and enjoyable day for the ones that really matter.

01 | Fruit Picking

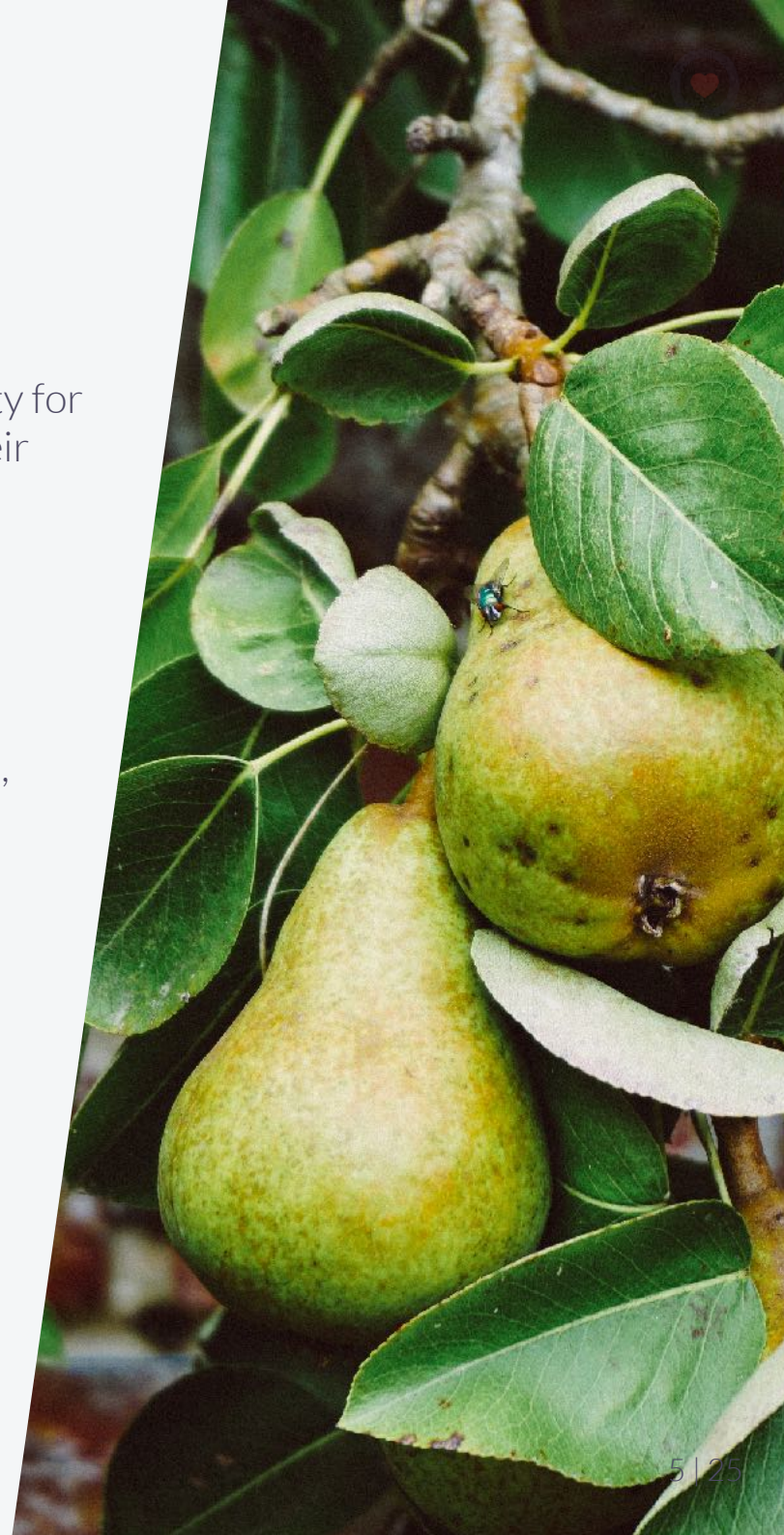
Nothing quite like fruit picking in the British summer! A fun activity for the little ones and an opportunity to show them exactly where their favourite fruits come from.

02 | The Zoo

It's a classic for a reason. Kids get to see all their favourite animals, learn all about where they come from, and understand why looking after them matters.

03 | The Aquarium

See the kids faces as they stare through the glass at the colourful fish and sharks and you'll know why this is a good idea! A great activity to kick off a whole range of ideas for play back in your setting.



04 | Pottery Making

Do you have a local pottery shop nearby? The kids will love to see how the lumps of clay transform into the bowls that they recognise, and they can even get involved with painting their own.

05 | Bakery

Another great day trip to set the kids up for some quality role-playing back at your setting (plus they might even let you take some sweet treats back for yourself!)

06 | Supermarket

An easy one this. Walk down to the supermarket with some of the children to collect ingredients for a spot of cooking back at the nursery.





07 | Beach

If you're lucky enough to be by the sea, this is always a winner. The kids will love collecting rocks and shells that they can take back for crafts. Parents will love to see their 'My Day at The Beach' creations.

08 | Vet

What animal-loving little one doesn't love to play vet? You might want to take a smaller group for this one, but it'll be great for the children to develop a better understanding of the world around them.

09 | Recycling Centre

Recycling centres can be really well set up for the sort of tours that will suit your setting. They often have programs as part of their responsibility to educate people on the importance of recycling and it could be fascinating for the kids.



10 | Botanical Garden

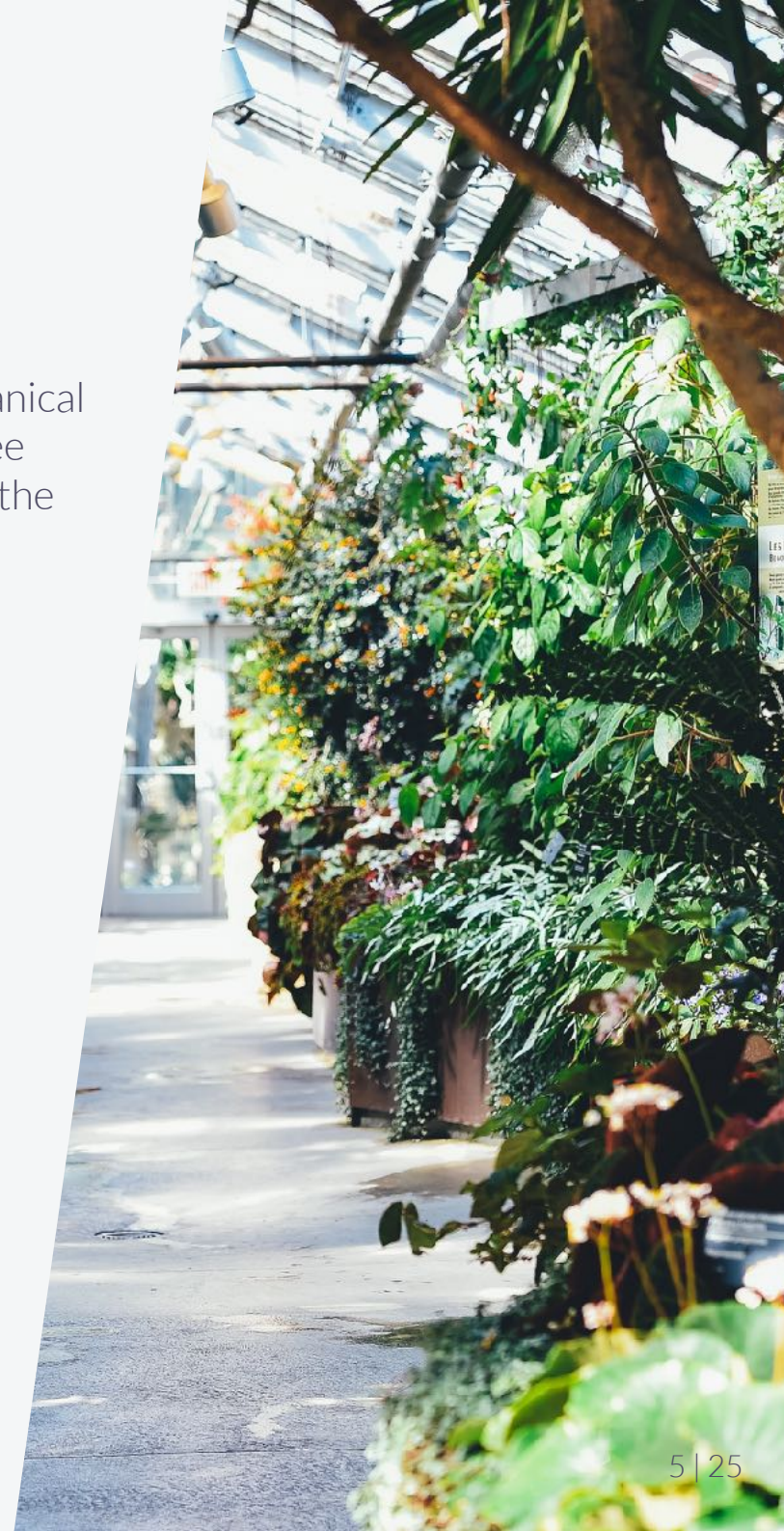
Throw on the high-vis jackets and walk on down to your local botanical gardens. A great activity for getting outside and letting the kids see loads of beautiful plants they've never seen. Great inspiration for the next drawing session.

11 | Wood Worker or Carpenter

It's important to show the kids that some of these old skills are still as valuable as ever. Plus the kids might get a chance to work on some of their gross motor skills too.

12 | Historical Sites

Any good local sites near you are a must visit. Full of fun ways to learn, and much more importantly fun places to inspire play in your setting.





13 | Blacksmith

Another older craft to inspire the little ones with. If you're lucky enough to have a practising blacksmith in your area, make sure to add it to your list!

14 | Nature Reserve

The UK has more than 200 national nature reserves in the UK, and more than 1,000 local ones. Find one near you and see if it's suitable for the children to go out, adventure, and explore!

15 | National Trust Site

Stately homes, historical buildings, gardens, we have over 400 national trust sites in England alone. Full of history and interesting stories, there's plenty to get the kids' imagination going.



16 | Factory

OK, the risk assessments might be a little tricky on this one. But going to see a working factory is captivating for adults. Imagine what it'll do to help your children's understanding of the world around them and where things come from.

17 | It's About the Journey Too!

The journey is one of the most important parts of the trip. It's one of the best ways for children to explore the world around them (safely of course).

18 | Garden Centre

More plant-based fun. Children get to see the range of beautiful plants on offer and learn about how plants grow out from the soil. Don't forget to take some home - the children can learn by getting their hands dirty and helping to plant them in your nursery garden.



19 | Police Station

Local police stations are great for this sort of thing, and many will be well experienced with showing the little ones around and knowing what to talk about and what to leave out of the tour.

20 | Fire Station

What kid doesn't want to climb into the fire engine and see the fireman's pole? You'll have no trouble the next time the local cat gets stuck up the tree once the little ones have been inspired by a visit to the fire station!

21 | Local Newspaper

A little left-field maybe. But local newspapers can be exciting hubs of activity, and the kids will love seeing how the paper that arrives through their letterbox gets put together.





22 | Packaging Facility

Similar to the factory, these plants are fascinating. The little ones won't be able to wait to get back to the setting and have a go themselves.

23 | Post Office

Sorting letters, organising the parcels - it's all a brilliant role-play that the kids can learn from and take back to the setting. As with everything, setting up some areas so you can expand on the learning is what counts.

24 | Local Forest

Time to get some forest play in! More and more forest schools are cropping up over the country and you can either take some of their techniques to the woods yourself, or even visit one for the day. You can learn from them while the kids enjoy themselves at the same time.





25 | Radio Station

Another great one for a smaller group. Let the children wonder at the DJs with all their technical gear making the sounds that you can hear on radios for miles around. They might even let the kids record a few bits themselves!

26 | Farm

Many local farms are now specially set up for children to visit, and if not, will certainly have taken groups around before. Educational, a lot of fun, and the perfect starting point for more play back at the setting.

27 | The Library

These trips needn't be complicated. Take the kids for a walk down to the local library and pick out a few of their favourite books to take back and read at the nursery.



28 | The Park

Get those little bones moving! Taking the children out into a different environment and giving them a chance to play around in some big open space is a simple way of making a big difference to the level of care you're giving.

29 | Soft Play Centres

There's a reason why kids love these places so much. They'll often offer packages, and with enough support, you should be able to take most of the children - they normally have special sections for the younger ones.

30 | Science Museums

If you're lucky enough to be near a specialist kids science museum, congratulations! If not, many of the other science museums throughout the country will have sections dedicated to stimulating little brains either way.



31 | History Museums

Not all history museums will be right for kids this young. But find one with plenty of interactive exhibits to inspire the children at your setting and you'll have heads full of imaginative play for months to come.

32 | Art Gallery

Same as the history museums here. A lot of art galleries won't work, but if you can find one with interactive work and a chance for the little hands to get busy making their own works of genius, you're onto a winner.

33 | Local Playground

Another chance for a little bit of light exercise. With the chance to clamber on top of high things you might need a few extra adult pairs of hands though.





34 | The Bus Ride

You'll have faces glued to the windows as they get to see that big wide world go by. Point out different things to the kids as you go to increase their understanding, and maybe work on an area back at the nursery so kids can play bus driver too.

35 | The Long Walk

Getting there at a more sedate pace is perfect for the kids to explore and ask questions about the world around them. So polish off those high-vis jackets and get those wellies ready for some puddle splashing

36 | The Train Ride

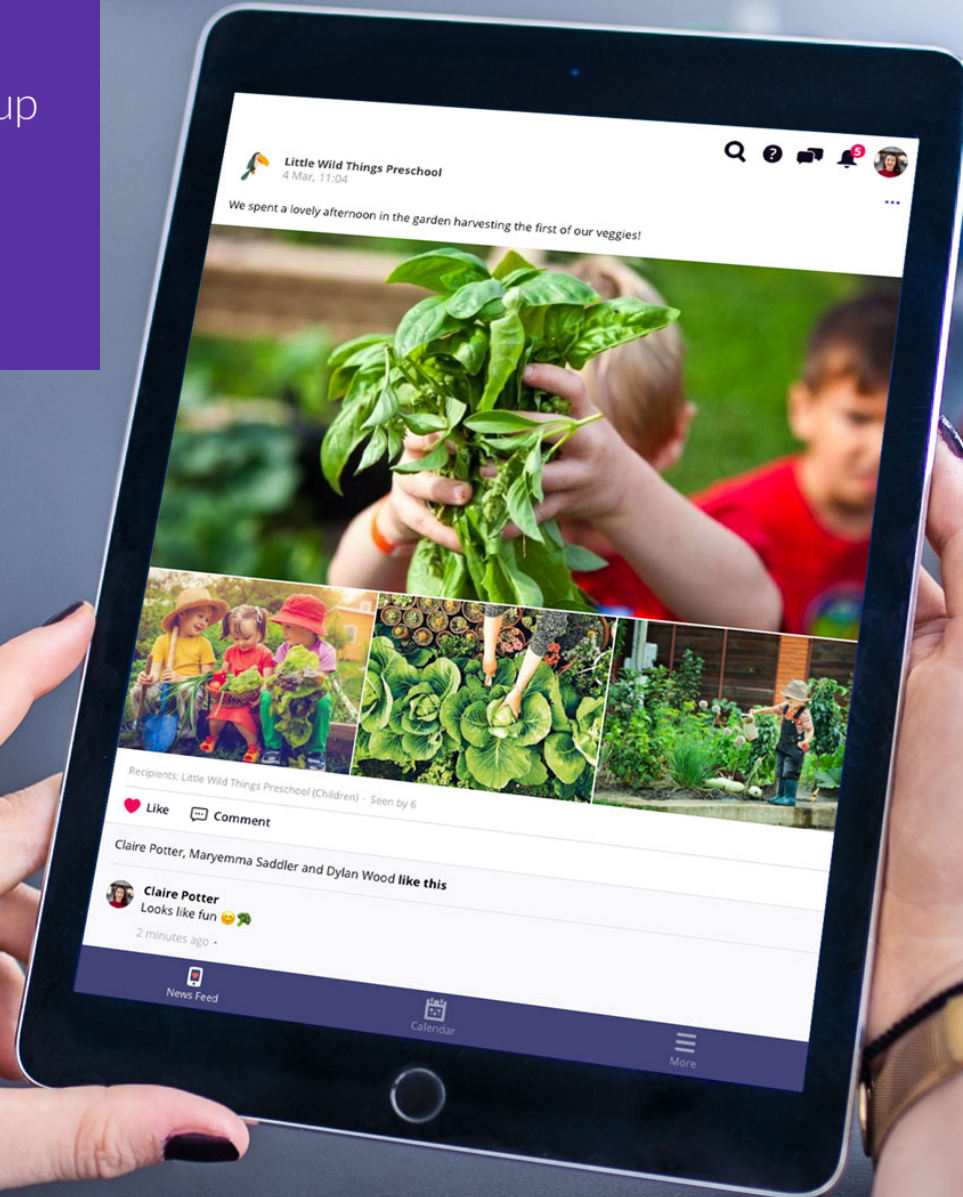
With the right preparation, you can get the children interested in the route map in advance and watch them follow it as you go station to station. Don't forget to record the sounds of the journey and you can play them back to the children as they plan their own journey back at the setting.



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37 | Castles

Explore, explore, explore! Watch the kid's imaginations go wild as they visit the realm of kings and queens (and maybe even a few dragons!).

38 | Lake

Any big lakes nearby will be teeming with all sorts of wildlife. A beautiful setting for some top outdoor play and lovely things for the kids to wonder at.

39 | Picnic

Nice summer day? Get out of that stuffy lunchroom, pack up the kids' lunch and take them out to the local park for some food outside in the sun. Don't forget some hand-wash so they can still wash their hands before they eat.



40 | Go Find Some Puddles

Is there anything better than some puddle splashing in the rain? Make sure parents bring in some wellies for the little ones and head out in search of that perfect puddle

41 | Camping in the Garden

You don't have to go far away to feel like you've gone somewhere special. Set up a tent or even just a little den fort outside for some reading time.

42 | The Airport

Have you got an airport nearby? Lots of airports will have spots that you can park up and watch the planes go overhead. The kids will be transfixed seeing the planes taking off and you can play a guessing game about where they might be going!



43 | Local Football Club

Got some football mad little ones? Lots of football grounds will have tours for young children. Who knows, they might even be allowed out onto the turf to score a goal in the proper nets.

44 | Local Rugby Club

Don't discount other sports either! Local rugby grounds may have activities you can do with the little ones, and a chance to wander around a big old stadium should set their imaginations wild!

45 | Local Cricket Ground

OK, so all we're trying to say is there are lots of options! Don't discount a trip away to a big sporting stadium just because you don't have a football ground nearby.





46 | A Local River

Rivers are also a great source of wildlife. You'll have to be careful making sure the kids don't go too close to the edge, but they'll have fun seeing all the things that run down the stream.

47 | Canal

A wander down a local canal is another brilliant activity. Set up an activity space back at your nursery and the kids can pretend they have their own canal boat to live on.

48 | Stadium

Do you have the next Adele in your ranks? Stadiums will also have a bunch of initiatives for the little ones. The sheer size might be enough, but they may even let you go backstage too!



49 | Concert venue

No stadium in your local area? A local concert venue can do many of the same things, but there might be even more flexibility with what you can do. Find that next rock star!

50 | Theatre

Theatres have the double-win that they're often quite experienced working with children - they may even be able to run a fun session for the kids up on the stage with you.

51 | Another Nursery

Good for you, and good for the kids! Getting the kids into a new environment will be interesting for them, and it's a great chance for you to learn about the ways other practitioners do things.



52 | The Other Type of Nursery

Much like the garden centre earlier, but nurseries tend to do a lot more of their own planting, so the kids will be able to see the plants in all different stages of their growth.

53 | Local Shop

You don't have to be getting your ingredients from the supermarket - pop to the local shop and support your local community while getting some yummy treats to make back at the nursery.

54 | Florist

Kids will be wowed by all the amazing colours, and the florist might even be able to show them how they put together a big bouquet. Probably better for a smaller group - don't forget to take some flowers back to brighten up your nursery.



55 | Greengrocer

Getting your kids to understand where their fruit and vegetables come from is just part of the experience at a greengrocer. Pick up some of your favourites and head back to make a yummy soup to share with everyone.

56 | Local Market

Busy markets can be a bit stressful with lots of children, but find a quieter time of the day and the kids will love all the sights and sounds from the wide variety of different stalls.

57 | Author Museums

Museums for children's authors are the real jackpot. If you're lucky enough to have one nearby then it's an absolute must visit.



58 | Synagogue

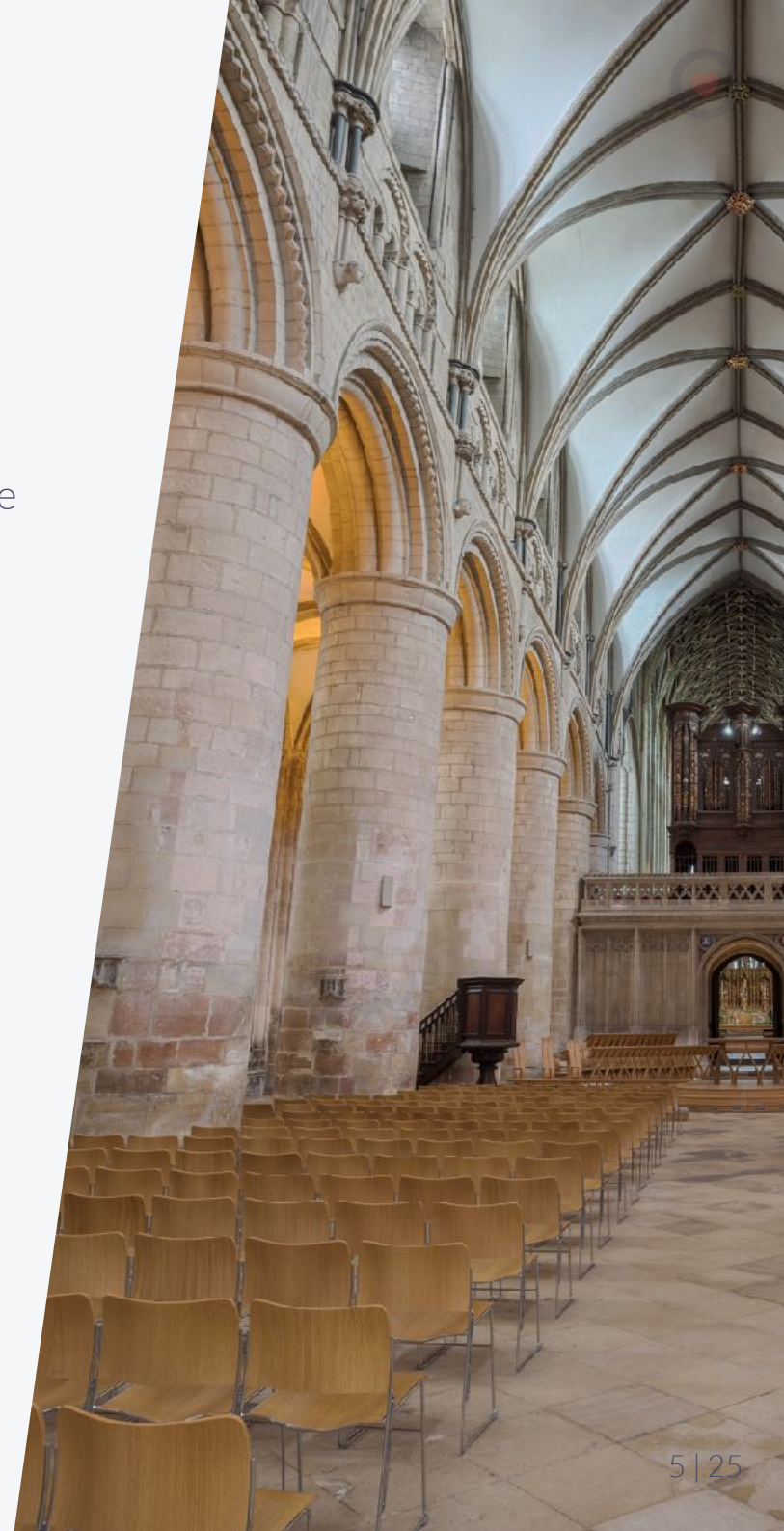
There'll be plenty of different places of worship in your local area. Synagogues are just one example that might be in your local area. Kids are unlikely to have to wear anything special but be aware the staff may need to.

59 | Church

Local churches are great for fun and games with the kids. They'll love exploring around all the aisles and get some great inspiration for the next drawing session.

60 | Mosque

Visiting local places of worship is also a great way to grow relationships in your community. Why not pop down to the local mosque during Eid celebrations to drop off a gift from the nursery?



61 | Places of Worship

There may be plenty of different places of worship in your area. Buddhist or Hindu temples, or Sikh Gurdwaras are just some examples. Simply get in touch first and see whether they think a visit might be a good fit.

62 | Restaurant

Do you let the children get involved with cooking at your setting? Popping to a local restaurant can be a great inspiration for play, and the chefs will probably make the kids a few sweet treats too.

63 | Garages

Seeing all those car parts is enough to terrify any adult with a car more than five years old. But the kids will love seeing the inner workings of that thing that gets them to the nursery every day.





64 | Motorbike Repair Shop

Same as the garage, just a bit smaller. Both of these can be the perfect starting off point to a new area in your nursery and the start of some extra special play for the little ones.

65 | Bicycle Shop

They might not be on the training wheels yet, but seeing someone turn a pile of parts into a working bike will get their imaginations going either way. You'll have a crew of budding mechanics in no time.

66 | Present Shopping

Have you got a nursery pet? We saw a cute example of a nursery taking the children down to the shops to choose little presents and decorations for their guinea pig's birthday. Why not!



67 | Animal Sanctuaries

Just like the zoo, sanctuaries are a great place for children that love animals. They often have great programs to show the little ones around and help them to understand a little more about the animals all at the same time.

68 | Walking Trails

OK, so you probably won't be hiking up the Himalayas. But walking trails set up specifically for the little ones are a great excuse to get out of the setting and find all sorts of bit and bobs to take back to the nursery.

69 | Mazes

They might be a little 19th century, but with enough adult volunteers a local maze could be the perfect setting for the ultimate game of hide and seek. Just make sure they don't really get lost...



70 | Butterfly House

Who isn't enthralled by these delicate creatures? Kids will be in wonderment as they see the bright colours too. Yet again, many of these have schemes set up specifically for nurseries.

71 | Railway Station

Do you have a beautiful old railway station nearby? You don't even have to get on the train (although why not take a little trip?). You can get the kids' creative juices flowing and set up some cardboard trains for them to play with back at the setting.



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