Please don’t pick any parts of the plants, climb the trees or tread on the garden beds – and remember to use your eyes not your fingers when observing little animals.

50 things for kids to do

Exciting things to do at the Royal Botanic Gardens – and more beyond

At the Melbourne Gardens you can...

discover 10,000 different plants from all over the world and explore all the secret nooks and crannies of the Gardens, while you...

1. Lie down on the lawn on your tummy, smell the grass and watch out for little creatures walking through their grass jungle.
2. Feel the grass under your feet – try tiny steps and giant steps.
3. Lie under a tree and look up into the canopy. Pretend you are a possum running along the branch.
4. Close your eyes and listen to the wind rustle through the trees. What else can you hear?
5. Look for fallen acorns on Oak Lawn in summer. Do their tiny cases fit on your fingers?
6. Investigate the ducks on the lake, mimic their calls and make a little nest for them of fallen leaves on the lawn.
7. Spot as many eels in the lake as you can. What do you think their names are?
8. Find a leaf or petal in the shape of a love heart. What other shapes can you find?
9. Visit Long Island to look for the bellbirds and listen out for their call.
10. Balance a leaf or twig or stone on your head.
11. Try to jump from one shadow of a tree to the next.
12. Play follow the leader, but an insect is your leader!
13. Play hide and seek behind the big trees on Oak Lawn.
14. Pretend you are a dinosaur roaming through Fern Gully.
15. Find out how many smells you can discover in the Herb Garden. Rub the leaves gently to release their oils.
16. Make up your own story about the Gardens. Imagine what happens here on a moonlit night...
17. Find some fallen leaves and flowers and make a pattern or mandala.
18. Lie on your back and watch the clouds. What shapes can you see?
19. Find a pet rock and set up a rock picnic for it (using stones, leaves and twigs).
20. Find shapes in plants and faces in trees...
21. Practise your cartwheels on the lawn area.
22. Watch butterflies in spring and summer. Can you move like a butterfly?
23. Count how many colours you can see in the leaves in the Tropical Glasshouse.
24. Ask your Mum or Dad or Grandma or Grandpa how to play Ring-around-the-Rosie.
25. Count the cacti around Guilfoyle’s Volcano.
To find out more about What’s On at the Royal Botanic Gardens, sign up for our monthly eNews at rbg.vic.gov.au