



The painting above is by the artist **Martin Gale** and is part of the UCC Art Collection. Climate Action and Sustainability is a priority strand for the Glucksman's community programmes. We are proud to partner with UCC Green Campus on creative projects that explore environmental issues. You can find out more here: <http://www.glucksman.org/discover/community/climate-action-and-sustainability>

This week's **#creativityathome** activities encourage you to think about sustainability and individual action, we're inviting you to make your own homemade art materials.

CREATIVE EXPLORATION

Let's look at biodiversity in our local environment. There are many forms of life that exist in our green spaces.

What does 'biodiversity' mean? Bio means life (or living things) and diversity means a wide range (or variety).

Can you create a map of a green space near you, your garden or a local park. Draw in all the different types of species - animals, insects, plants, trees... Ask your family to help with naming the species.

ART ACTIVITY

MATERIALS: Salt, flour, tablespoon, teaspoon, food colouring (dye), water, vegetable oil, bowls, measuring jug.

Today, we are going to make homemade playdough to create a sculpture that celebrates biodiversity in our local environment.

Activity 1: Make your own playdough

Making your own art materials is a fun and creative way to encourage sustainability in your home. You'll need to get some help finding the basic household items listed above. Don't worry if you can't find any food colouring, you can still make the playdough!

Check out our tutorial video for a step by step guide. Use a different bowl for each different colour:

Add 60ml water to a bowl.

Add a tablespoon of vegetable oil.

Take your tablespoon and add the food colouring.

Next add 8 tablespoons of plain white flour.

Now add 2 tablespoons of salt.

Mix well using a spoon. You can knead the playdough together on a clean countertop or table. Dust the surface with a little flour before you get to work.

PS. The playdough can be stored in a plastic bag in your fridge for up to 3 months.

Activity 2: What's living in my garden!

It's time to put our very own playdough to use! Think about the many different species in your area - bees, earthworms, birds, trees, flowers...

Create one of the animals or plants out of your playdough. Maybe you can combine different colours or make a few different sculptures and put them together to create your own park!

We would love to see what artworks you create. Ask your parents or guardian to share them with us on the Glucksman's and through their [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts and we will post them to our online galleries on our website.

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