

# Kid's corner

## Pressing flowers and looking at nature up close!

You will certainly inspire the young gardener at home by exploring your garden, collecting flowers and leaves to press and preserve.

There are many ways to enjoy the pressed blooms. You can make great fun crafts or perhaps some lovely greeting cards. Maybe place your artistic creation into a photo frame. Consider mounting the pressed flowers into collections for display or create an herbaria book where your child can name each plant on a separate page for each.

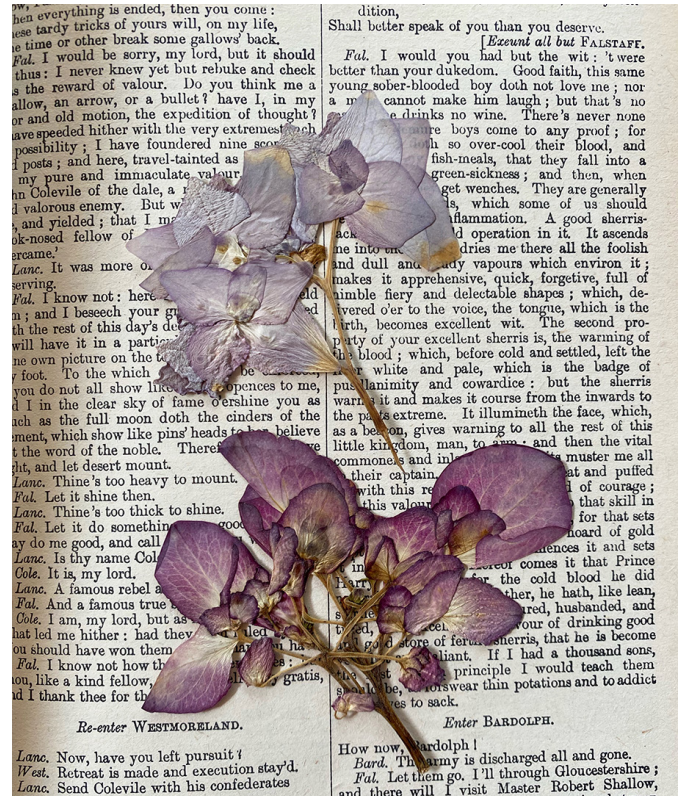
Learning some simple parts of flowers can also give understanding to where insects and birds visit for food and where bees visit to make honey. More in depth conversations can be about cross pollination or pollinating flowers for fruit and vegetables to form.

Examine the flowers that you have chosen from your garden carefully. How are the flowers different, what colors are the petals? How many petals does your flower have, can you see any pollen or stamen, are there any leaves, does your flower have a stem?

When choosing flowers to press from your garden, it's best to collect them when they are free of dew or a few days after rain.

You can use a book or several folded sheets of newspaper. Some people have a pressing board made of wood. I have chosen my mother's book, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*. It's a nice thick book which will be able to hold many flowers and will add some weight to help with the pressing of the flowers.

Lay your leaves and flowers out carefully on a page, leaving space between them. It's best if the plants are of a similar thickness so they dry evenly. Make sure you leave several pages between your flowers as the pages absorb moisture from the plants. Depending on the thickness of your flowers and leaves, they can take up to four weeks to dry. When you gently close the book, place a brick on top to apply more pressure.



We would love to see what you have created with your pressed flowers. What did you learn?



Good luck! We would love to see pictures. Send them to [operations@opengardensvictoria.org.au](mailto:operations@opengardensvictoria.org.au)