

My secret treasures – How to do it.

The '50 Things to Do Before You're Five' activity, 'My Secret Treasures', is a fun way to engage your child's curiosity, improve their observation skills, vocabulary and understanding of the world.

Children love exploring and collecting special little treasures. Outdoors they might gather and fill their pockets with sticks, stones, conkers, and pinecones. At home, they might use an old biscuit tin to collect little things that interest or excite them, such as ribbons or small bouncy balls.

These little collections – whether it is a shiny pebble, a twisty twig, or a colourful ribbon – are often full of meaning and imagination. They are not just “things,” they are stories, memories, and sparks of curiosity. Listening to your child's stories about their latest discovery shows you value them; this helps boost your child's confidence and encourages them to find more treasures and share more stories.



Talking with your children about their treasures is a beautiful way to:

- Encourage language development – Describing textures, shapes, and colours introduces rich vocabulary.
- Foster emotional connection – Listening to their stories shows you value their thoughts and feelings.
- Support sensory exploration – Feeling rough bark or squishy moss helps them learn through touch.
- Inspire creativity – These objects can become parts of games, art, or storytelling.



Talking Together in Cambridgeshire's Festival of Stories

Maggie the magpie's secret treasure

In a big green tree at the edge of a meadow, lived a curious little magpie named Maggie. Maggie loved to fly high in the sky and swoop low over the grass, always looking for something new and exciting.

One sunny morning, Maggie found a shiny button near a picnic blanket. "Ooooh! What a sparkly thing!" Maggie chirped. Maggie picked it up with their beak and flew it back to their favourite branch.

Maggie did not just like shiny things. They had also found a soft feather, a twisty twig, and even a tiny red ribbon. "These are my secret treasures." Maggie said proudly, putting them all into a little nook in the tree.

Maggie was not trying to steal – they were just very curious. Maggie liked to explore and see what the world had to offer.

Sometimes Maggie picked up sparkly things, and sometimes they liked things that were just interesting or fun to touch.



Maggie's nest was not full of treasures though. It was cosy and simple, made with care in a quiet, thorny bush. Magpies like to keep their treasures nearby, just for fun – not for building.

At the end of the day, Maggie sat on their branch, looking at their collection. "The best treasure of all," Maggie chirped, "is the fun I had finding them!" And with a happy flutter they snuggled into their nest and began dreaming of tomorrow's adventures.