
THE CRAFTY HEDGEHOG

VOL. 13



WWW.LITTLECRAFTERSBOXES.CO.UK



1 NOVEMBER 2026

Hygge is all about cosy comfort, warmth, and looking after each other – and this month the LCB chickens have been getting properly hyggeed as the weather turns cold and windy.

With autumn storms arriving, a few of our chickens developed respiratory infections. They've been treated with chicken medicine and even gentle "steam bath" care to help them breathe more easily and recover. Sadly, we lost two of our flock, so our chicken count has changed from 21 to 19. The rest are doing well so far, and we're keeping a close eye on everyone as winter settles in.

To help the flock stay cosy, we've given their run and coop a big upgrade. The coop has been insulated with polycarbonate (the same kind of material used in greenhouses) to help hold in warmth during colder months. Because our chickens are approaching the "teenage" stage (yes, chicken puberty is real!), we've also added divides inside the run. As they grow, separating boys and girls helps reduce arguments and keeps the flock calmer while they develop.

We've also learned a brilliant nature trick: fallen leaves aren't just garden waste – they're chicken entertainment and free heating. By adding leaves into the run, the chickens scratch and break them down, helping turn them into compost. Even better, composting creates its own gentle warmth, which can help keep their run area a little cosier through winter.

It's a good reminder that hygge isn't just blankets and hot chocolate – it's thoughtful preparation, gentle care, and making small changes that help everyone feel safe and well... even if you've got feathers.

HYGGE FOR HENS: THE LCB CHICKENS GET WINTER-READY



We've also discovered a very clever chicken "life hack": if you lightly scratch the front of a pumpkin and pop it into the run, the chickens will keep pecking at the scratched areas until they've carved it out themselves. That means our flock has already been busy carving their very first Halloween pumpkins – and enjoying a tasty seasonal treat at the same time!



NOT JUST A SOCK

The recent sock puppet competition may have been “make only”, but the puppets have already started popping up in unexpected places. Several children have brought their sock characters along to practise for the community Christmas sing-song of Rocking Around the Christmas Tree – a brilliant example of how a simple craft can quickly turn into something shared and confidence-building.

Roleplay characters (even ones made from socks) can help children feel safer trying new things. When a puppet is “doing the talking” or “doing the singing”, it creates a little distance that makes it easier to join in without feeling self-conscious. For younger children, that might mean experimenting with silly voices and stories; for older children, it can be a way to participate without the pressure of being the centre of attention.

Creating a character also builds confidence in quieter ways. Children make decisions, solve problems, and express personality through design – from choosing colours and features, to imagining who their puppet is. That sense of “I made this” can be a powerful boost, especially for children who don’t always feel confident in more traditional settings.

Want to join in? Involve your sock puppet in the “Rocking Around the Christmas Tree” sing-along and let your character do the performing. You can take part anytime up to 10 December – send in a short clip of your puppet singing (solo or with your family) and help us build our community Christmas single.



Esmée Bott



Katy Bott



Phoebe Bott



The Daniels Children



David H



Jacob D

Winner! Well done Georgia



Georgia H

DYLAN'S BEEF & PUMPKIN STEW



INGREDIENTS

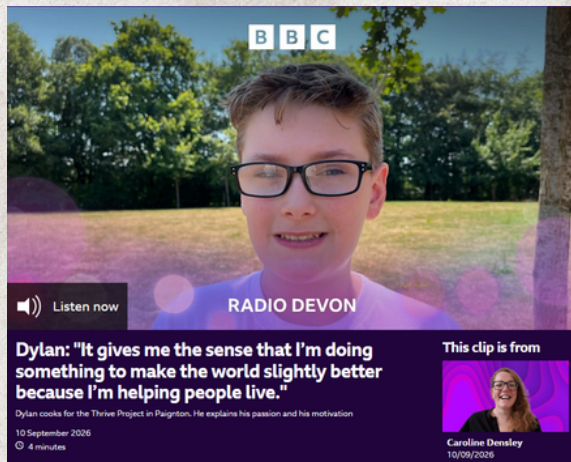
- 500g stewing beef, cut into chunks
- 400g pumpkin, peeled, deseeded and cut into chunks
- 2 carrots, peeled and sliced
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed (optional)
- 750ml beef stock
- 1 tbsp plain flour
- 1 tbsp cooking oil
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 1 tsp dried rosemary
- Salt and black pepper, to taste

Method

1. Prepare the vegetables: Peel and cut the pumpkin into bite-sized chunks. Slice the carrots and chop the onion.
2. Brown the beef: Heat the oil in a large saucepan or casserole dish over a medium-high heat. Add the beef and brown on all sides. Remove the beef and set aside.
3. Cook the onion and carrot: Add the onion and carrot to the same pan and cook for about 5 minutes until the onion starts to soften. Add the flour.
4. Add the flour: Sprinkle the flour over the vegetables and stir well for about 1 minute.
5. Make the stew: Return the beef to the pan. Slowly pour in the beef stock, stirring as you go. Add the thyme, rosemary and garlic if using.
6. Simmer: Bring the stew to a gentle simmer, then cover with a lid. Cook on low heat for about 1 hour.
7. Add the pumpkin: Add the pumpkin chunks and stir gently. Continue cooking for another 30–45 minutes, until the beef is tender and the pumpkin and carrots are cooked through.
8. Season and serve: Taste and add salt and black pepper if needed. Serve hot with mashed potatoes, crusty bread or rice.

Chef's tip: Don't add the pumpkin too early – it can become very soft and disappear into the stew. Adding it during the final 30–45 minutes helps it keep some shape while still making the gravy rich and delicious.

WELL DONE DYLAN



Dylan has been doing some excellent work in his area over the last few years from charity work, being in the cadets and even cooking for the homeless during the winter months. He even won an award for it this month and was recognised on BBC recognised on BBC Radio Devon.

A massive well done to Dylan. It was well deserved. we are all very proud of you.

EMMA'S HELPDESK: HOW DO THE SYSTEMS IN OUR BODY SUPPORT WELLBEING?



Our bodies are amazing! The body can support our wellbeing in so many ways, if we just pay it some attention.

For example, did you know there is a link between gut health and mental health? By eating foods that help our gut feel happy, we can help our mind feel happy, too! Perhaps you can try some fermented foods or Kefir – your gut loves these!

The chemicals in our brain also support our mental wellbeing, but if they become imbalanced it can cause us to feel low. So, what can you do? Well, it's important to get enough exercise, sunlight, sleep and also plenty of hugs from someone you care about! All these things can influence brain chemistry, helping our body to support us emotionally and mentally.

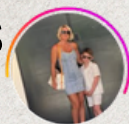
By helping the body to stay regulated, you will feel more regulated emotionally. Why not try the Hygge craft box to help you relax? Or you could ask your adults for a weighted sloth for Christmas! I have one of these in my therapy room, and he is great for giving hugs and restoring balance physically and mentally, all in one go!

~EMMA OLDERSHAW
THERAPIST, WRITER AND CREATIVE WELLBEING PRACTITIONER
WWW.OPENSKIESHYPNOTHERAPY.CO.UK

Home Ed Diaries

Lisa Waterhouse

@homeschooling_mom_uk



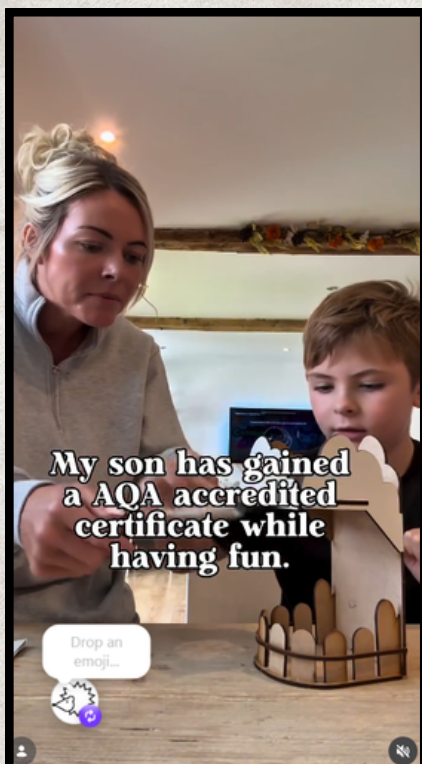
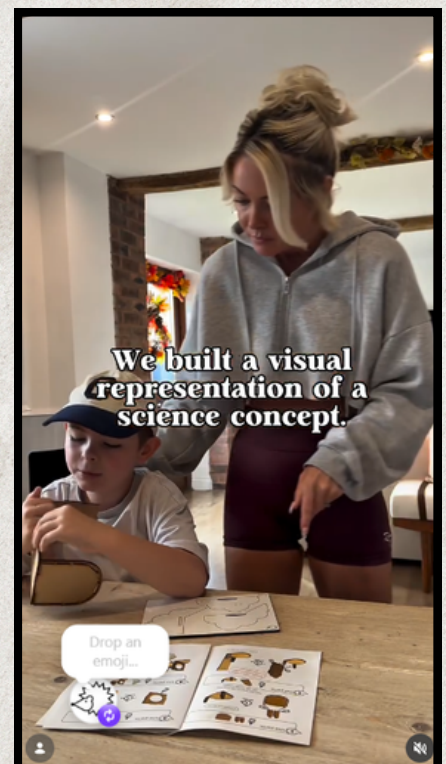
After attending a few home-ed groups in Stourbridge, I met Klaudia and her son Aaron. Through her, I was introduced to Sarah and her son Sal, and Jenny and her son Toby. My son Orlando is 8, Sal is 7, Aaron is 7 and Toby is 6 – and it didn't take long for the boys to start building real friendships.

Sarah has three older children and had already used LCB Education with all of them, so when she recommended it to us, we were keen to give it a go. Before we knew it, we'd made a plan: the boys would work through the AQA units together.

Sarah has been brilliant at taking the lead (she's done this before!), and now we meet up each week to complete a unit as a group. Because the boys are hands-on learners, we keep sessions practical, interactive and busy – and doing it together means they learn from each other as well as from the activities.

The best part is how much they look forward to it. It's become a weekly highlight: a chance to socialise, try new skills, and build confidence in a space that feels safe and fun.

LCB Education has made it easy for us parents too. Everything we need for each session is in one place, and the wider community support has been such a bonus.



LCB CLASS OF 26

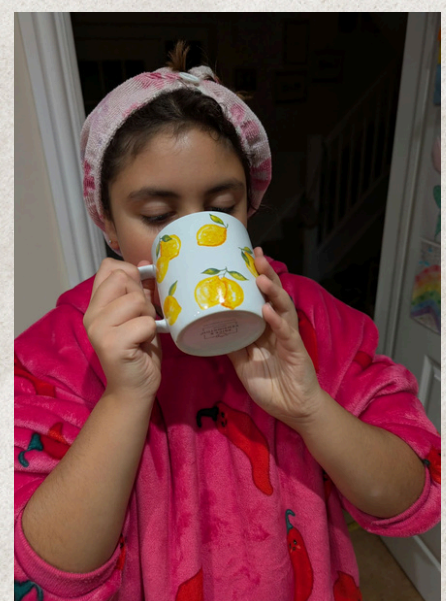
Lovely to see Class of 2026 Hoodies make an appearance across the community. They are so much more than just a hoodie. The sense of belonging somewhere you fit, are wanted and can grow means everything.

BOTTOMS UP

Hot chocolate stations keep popping up all over the country. It is good to see Little Crafters embracing Hygge this season!



Image: Hot chocolate Station from the LCB Seasonal Autumn/Winter collection



TOE-TALLY AWESOME SHOUT OUTS



IF THE SHOE FITS...

This month we have seen some spectacular work from children for Toe-Tally Awesome month from foot tips to slipper making to reflexology to foot spas and drawing! What a lovely set of feet you all have!



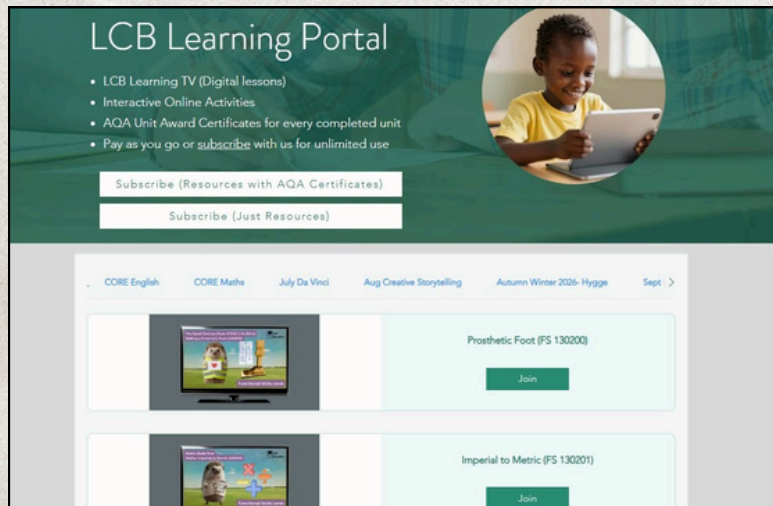
placing the red rocks inside the growing chamber and leaving undisturbed for 3 days. We could have left for 7 days to get a bigger crystal but she wanted to see what was happening. It turned out

For this experiment, Sophia used a crystal growing lab from National Geographic. This involved dissolving the powder in hot water and then

Mylo, a Little Crafters child, came up with an ingenious creative alternative way of making a Yule goat and created this masterpiece with Lego!



LEARNING PORTAL UPDATE



We have been listening to feedback since we launched our online learning portal and have already been making some improvements, based on what our customers have been asking us for:

- Learning Programs are now sorted by topic (rather than challenge level)
- The confusing pricing was not working so we have removed it
- New, cleaner list view
- New October - Toe-tally Awesome programs, lessons and workbooks have been added a little early for your convenience.
- The inside structure of each program is more closely linked to the content of the workbooks, so it feels like the same work, regardless of how the child decides to complete it.
- There are no more tiny images in the "read this" sections. We have instead added bits that are a better size into the areas where they have to do their work, so it is all in one place.

Thank you to the children that have been giving it a good go and to all of the adults who keep diligently sending in feedback. It has helped us to make improvements to make it something quite special inside the education community. A true game changer for the children and adults who prefer a digital approach to completing their work.

It has been noted that the number of submissions this month is exponentially larger than previous months just because the portal exists. All of a sudden lots of our children have found a new, accessible way to learn, and do more independently! Well done to the LCB kids!

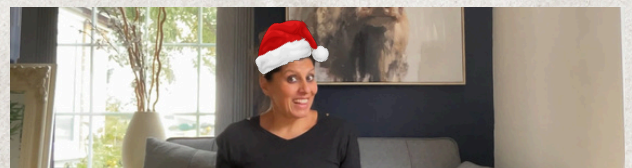
GET INVOLVED: SING WITH US?



Get your Christmas hats out! This year the LCB Christmas single is going to be "Rocking around the Christmas Tree". Record yourself singing, dancing, playing an instrument or even signing the song and send it into us. We will create a collaboration for everyone that participated and release it on Christmas day.

Deadline 10 December

PUBLIC SPEAKING OPPORTUNITY: WORDS OF THANKS



This year's Christmas speech will be a bit different. Radha will talk about some of the wonderful things the community has seen this year, but this is also your opportunity to say some words too. Thank your favourite LCB teacher, let us know how LCB has helped you and share your messages to us.

Record a short message to let us know what you have been thankful for this year and we will play them live during Radha's Christmas speech in December.

Deadline 10 December

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Look out for the LCB Christmas magazine this month. Full of festive ideas, recipes, crafts and hygge goodness.

We do like to treat you!



WHAT'S COMING NEXT MONTH?

ZOOLOGY: AMAZING ANIMALS

Budding Crafters

72173
BIOLOGY:
ANIMAL
CLASSIFICATION



CLASSIFICATION WHEEL

129696
THE SCIENCE OF
VARIATION AND
ADAPTATION



ANIMAL HABITATS AND
DEFENSES

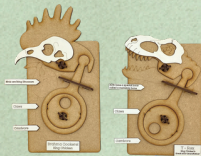
128689
LIFE MATHS:
NUMBER



GLOW WORM

Standard Crafters

125925
SCIENCE:
EXTINCTION



ANIMAL
COUSINS

116745
IDENTIFYING AND
RESEARCHING
ANIMALS



ANIMAL
FACTS/MAGNETS

125572
CRAFTING ANIMALS



STUFFED ROBIN
ORNAMENT

128553
STUDYING
SYMMETRY

Skilled Crafters

NEW UNIT: ART AND DESIGN:
NEEDLE PUNCHING



TIGER PUNCH
RUG

125911
AN INTRODUCTION TO
WILDLIFE AND MARINE
CONSERVATION

129389
USING CO-ORDINATES IN 2D
TO SPECIFY THE POSITIONS OF
POINTS

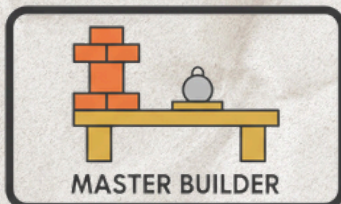
Deluxe
Add-on Option

127628 ANIMAL
ADAPTATIONS



WINTER ANIMAL FRAME

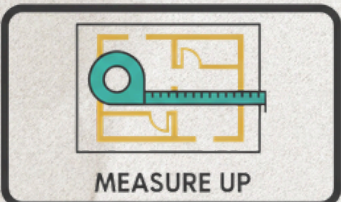
CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE EARN STAMPS FOR CU!



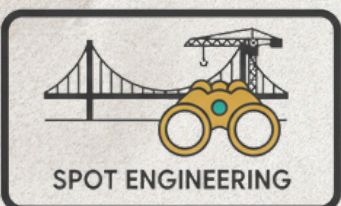
MASTER BUILDER



GREENER FUTURE



MEASURE UP



SPOT ENGINEERING

The Crafty Hedgehog (November): Construction & Engineering

Children's University celebrates learning that happens anywhere – helping children discover new interests and celebrate achievements. We've teamed up with Little Crafters Boxes and The Crafty Hedgehog to share quick, fun activities inspired by this month's theme.

Try one of these:

1. **Master Builder:** Build a tower/bridge/skyscraper using blocks, cardboard, lolly sticks or recycled bits. Test it – can it hold weight? Can you improve it?
2. **Measure Up:** Measure a room, doorway or furniture with a ruler/tape measure. Draw a simple plan and label your measurements.
3. **Greener Future:** Design an eco-home with features like solar panels, a green roof, rainwater collection or extra insulation – and label them.
4. **Spot Engineering:** Look for different buildings, bridges and construction equipment near you. What materials can you see, and how do you think it stays standing?

STATE OF THE
NATION 2023



To earn Children's University stamps, you'll need to be a Children's University member. Find out more at www.childrensuniversity.co.uk.

For a chance to be featured in The Crafty Hedgehog, send photos of your completed activities to: hello@littlecraftersboxes.co.uk

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH?

CONSTRUCTION CREATORS

Budding Crafters

24348 DT
STRUCTURES:
CONSTRUCTION

WRECKING BALL



Big demolition energy, but in a controlled, craft-table-friendly way.

Ideal for children who like dramatic builds and big satisfying movement. We thought this one would be a really good one for demolition fun, but also to learn about an important part of the Construction Engineering industry.

130321 EXPLORING
CONSTRUCTION
MATERIALS

BRICK MAKING

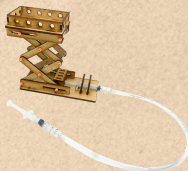


Tiny bricks! Tiny tools! Big "I'm building a world" vibes. We have included a hedgehog stamp to brand them.

Also, we thought that if we were going to give them a wrecking ball, then it would only be fair to have some bricks to knock down!

128709 LIFE MATHS:
SPACE, SHAPE AND
MEASUREMENT (UNIT
4)

HYDRAULIC LIFT



Yes. A hydraulic lift, for children. Perfect for kids who love things that go up and down and will immediately start lifting everything in the house "for science".

Standard Crafters

130322 PHYSICS FOR
CONSTRUCTION:
FORCES

MACHINE MOVER



The classic "build it... test it... redesign it... test it again" project. This is a therapeutic one for them to build and then enjoy again and again. We hope that it opens up conversations about how materials do get moved in the construction industry and why movement machines are sometimes necessary.

(And yes, it's also the kind of thing they'll make you watch 47 times.)

127765 BUILDING MODELS
USING INSTRUCTIONS

FORKLIFT



This one is an absolute showstopper.

If your child loves vehicles, mechanisms, or setting up little scenes and systems... they're going to be all over it. The forklift uses gears to move up and down and there are two coasters for them to transport to you every time you fancy a cuppa too!

126664
CONSTRUCTION (UNIT
1)

KEYRINGS



Small build, big pride. An opportunity to use some light tools and create something that looks rather impressive. Perfect for quick wins — and they can actually use them afterwards.

OTHER WORKBOOK UNITS:

128454 DEVELOPING NUMBER, TIME AND MEASURE SKILLS

127554

WORKING IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

Skilled Crafters

113879 PHYSICS: NEWTON'S LAWS OF
MOTION

LORRY STATIONARY HOLDER



A proper build with a proper outcome: something useful, display-worthy, and functional!

It's the perfect "older child" project because it feels grown up without being boring.

OTHER WORKBOOK UNITS:

128017 DEVELOPING STEM
EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS THROUGH
STRUCTURED LEGO TEAMWORK

125801 DEVELOPING FUNCTIONAL SKILLS
IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Deluxe Add-on Option

130323
DESIGNING AN
ENGINEERING
WORKSHOP

DESIGN A WORKSHOP



If your child loves having a "setup" — a little space for tools, parts, and projects — this add-on is such a fun extra.

Add it to any box for an extra project (and a very satisfying finished piece).

Happy Halloween
Happy Bonfire Night
Happy Christmas Shopping!

