

THE CRAFTY HEDGEHOG

VOL. 11



WWW.LITTLECRAFTERSBOXES.CO.UK



1 SEPTEMBER 2026

THREE DAYS OF TINY TROUBLE

Have you ever had a daydream where you shrank to the size of an ant? Maybe it happened after diving into Alice in Wonderland... or after a family film night watching Honey, I Shrunk the Kids! Suddenly your heart goes WHOOSH because you're teeny-tiny – and the world is HUGE. So what would you do... become a Mission Mischief-Maker, or leap into an adventure like no other?

Well... one day Radha had that exact daydream too. And before you could even squeak “ant-sized antics!”, a brilliantly bonkers idea popped into her head – and our 3-Day Slinkachu Challenge was born.

During the last week in July, Radha went live and invited everyone to create mini story scenes using little people in the most unexpected places. And wow – you understood the assignment!

We spotted LCB (very) little people, Lego characters, action figures and Polly Pockets popping up in the weirdest, crackers, utterly bonkers corners of everyday life. The best bit? Each photo felt like we were peeking into the secret lives of tiny people...

Day 1 was all about kitchens – and your tiny characters did not behave like polite dinner guests. We saw a fruity fairground that looked like it belonged in a mini carnival, plus a daring expedition to Mount Teapot (altitude: extremely steamy). There was a cosy hot chocolate adventure, a sunny biscuit beach, and even a surprise appearance from something we never expected to see in a newspaper article: a “surprisingly tasty” horse poop feature. (Tiny people are brave. Tiny people are also... questionable.)

On Day 2, the little people escaped outdoors for fresh air

and wild adventures. Some were sleeping under the stars like mini explorers. Others were climbing up dandelions like they were giant jungle trees. We spotted blackberry picking missions, full-on safari adventures, and a dramatic shipwreck on Sunflower Island that had us whispering, “Someone call the Tiny Coastguard!”



Day 3 was meant to add a touch of culture – a night in the museum – but your tiny characters turned it into a blockbuster. There were grand jewels saved at the last second, a monster tiger causing trouble at the Shopkins Museum, and (we can't believe we're typing this) a huge, scary “Cockerdile” making an appearance like it owned the place. It was dramatic. It was hilarious. It was exactly the kind of museum trip we'd actually like to go on.



PICTURE POWER!

Are you sitting comfortably? Good. Because this month, our Little Crafters have been telling brilliant stories without writing a single word.

You've heard the famous phrase "a picture speaks a thousand words"... and in the Little Crafters community, that feels completely true. With one glance at one of our August crafts you can almost hear it whispering: This is where the adventure starts. A colour choice can be a mood. A texture can be a setting. And a tiny detail can be a plot twist!

We have to give a special cheer to the Bott family, who were so quick off the mark they enjoyed a calm morning of crafting before August was even here! That's not just organised – that's next-level creative readiness. It's like they opened the storybook early!

Now, let's talk about storytelling without a single page of writing. When Ethan and Georgia created their cyanotype prints, it was like they captured a moment of sunshine and turned it into a picture you can stare at for ages. Cyanotype is art and science teaming up – and these prints feel like clues from a secret explorer's notebook. You know the kind: the one with mysterious shapes, shadowy outlines, and a big question hiding inside it. What do you think it's saying? Follow the trail? Find the hidden treasure? Meet me where the light lands?

Then Ethan and Georgia were joined by David, and their nature weaves had their own kind of magic too – like little windows into the outdoors, woven together with patience and imagination. They're the sort of crafts that make you lean in closer

and think, "If I shrank down to mouse-size, could I climb through this?"

And just when you think you've seen it all, along comes a book nook – a whole world hiding on a bookshelf.

Jack's and Ethan's wooden book nooks have that "come and have a closer look" feeling, like you might spot a tiny doorway

and start imagining who lives there and what they're up to. Both book nooks feel like the start of a story where something magical is about to happen behind a little door – maybe a cosy library, maybe a busy workshop, maybe a hidden passage to a brand-new adventure. They add serious story energy too; it's like looking at mini film sets where the details do all the acting, so you don't need characters to show what's happening because the scenes themselves are the characters.

Speaking of stories, Georgia's camera craft is a brilliant reminder that sometimes you don't need a pen to be a storyteller. You just need to notice things. What's happening in the scene? Who's the main character? What's just outside the frame? Is it a calm moment, an exciting moment, or a "something hilarious is about to happen" moment?

Let's end on a fun thought: if you could take one photo inside any of these storytelling crafts, what would you choose? A close-up of the cyanotype shadows? A top-secret corner of a book nook? The most tangled, twiggy, treasure-filled part of a weave?



IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR WORK TO BE FEATURED HERE NEXT MONTH, SEND IN YOUR PICTURES AND COMMENTS TO THECRAFTYHEDGEHOG@LITTLECRAFTERSBOXES.CO.UK

EMMA'S HELPDESK: HELPING THE PLANET: EASY ECO-FRIENDLY HABITS TO TRY AT HOME OR SCHOOL

I want to help the planet, but don't know where to start. What are some easy eco-friendly habits I can try?

It's great that you're keen to help the planet! Some easy ways we can all help to save the planet and protect natural habitat for animals and plants include turning off the tap while we brush our teeth to save water, walking or cycling rather than using the car, turning off lights and sockets when not in use, and sorting the rubbish into recycling, non-recycling and food waste. You could even make your own compost heap! When out walking, perhaps you could take some gloves and a bin bag and collect litter so it doesn't harm our wildlife or pollute the sea. Can you scatter wildflower seeds in your garden to help the bees and butterflies? Could you make a bug hotel? Or even a hedgehog house so Hartley can visit! All of our garden bugs and animals have an important role to play, and your help in creating the right conditions for them could make a big difference to our planet!

See you next month!



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

DYLAN'S RECIPE: SWEET AND SOUR PORK WITH STICKY RICE

INGREDIENTS

For the pork and vegetables:

- 500g pork loin or pork fillet, cut into bite-sized strips
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 carrots, peeled and cut into thin strips
- 1 red pepper, sliced
- 1 yellow pepper, sliced
- 1 onion, cut into chunks
- 1 small tin pineapple chunks (about 225g), keep the juice
- Salt and black pepper

For the sweet and sour sauce:

- 4 tbsp tomato ketchup
- 3 tbsp pineapple juice from the tin
- 2 tbsp rice vinegar or white wine vinegar
- 2 tbsp light brown sugar
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp cornflour
- 2 tbsp cold water

For the rice:

- 300g short-grain or sushi rice
- 400ml water



PREPARATION

1. Prepare the rice: Rinse the rice several times in cold water until the water becomes mostly clear. Put it into a saucepan with 400ml water. Bring to the boil, cover, reduce the heat to very low and cook for about 12-15 minutes. Turn off the heat and leave covered for another 10 minutes. Don't stir it too much – this helps it stay sticky.
2. Cook the pork: Heat the vegetable oil in a large frying pan or wok. Add the pork and stir-fry for around 5-7 minutes, until browned and completely cooked through. Remove it from the pan and set aside.
3. Cook the vegetables: Add the carrots, peppers and onion to the same pan. Stir-fry for about 5 minutes so they soften but still have a little bite.
4. Add the pineapple: Add the pineapple chunks and cook for another 1-2 minutes.
5. Make the sauce: Mix the ketchup, pineapple juice, vinegar, brown sugar and soy sauce together. Pour it into the pan and bring to a gentle simmer.
6. Thicken it: Mix the cornflour with 2 tablespoons of cold water until smooth. Slowly stir this into the sauce. Cook for 1-2 minutes until the sauce becomes thick and glossy.
7. Finish the dish: Return the cooked pork to the pan and stir everything together. Simmer for another 2-3 minutes, making sure the pork is piping hot and thoroughly cooked.
8. Serve: Spoon the sticky rice onto the plate and serve the sweet and sour pork, vegetables, pineapple and plenty of sauce alongside or over the rice.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND - OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS...

Our little feathered friends are back – and they're growing fast!

The chickens have been settling into their brand new run and getting used to all that extra space (daytime only for now, because they're still too little to stay out overnight). In a couple of weeks, once they've got all their feathers in, they'll be moving into a brand new coop we're building for them. Snack-wise, we've learned they love watermelon and beet leaves... but they've also been a bit cheeky and eaten all the flowers off Radha's lemon plant. Oops.

More updates coming soon – because with these little troublemakers, there's never a dull moment!



THE LITTLE CRAFTERS BOXES TIME MACHINE: 2020 TO NOW!



So where did Little Crafter Boxes come from? Well it all began in 2020, during the Covid pandemic, when Radha retired from teaching and started crafting as a hobby. She painted her garden shed and turned it into a little hobby room, where she could make small craft items just for the joy of it.



But here's the twist: that "just for fun" hobby didn't stay small for long. When the subscription boxes launched, the company grew so quickly that only one week later, Radha and Eric had to make a huge decision. They sold their house and moved to Lincolnshire, because they'd found much bigger premises for a business that was growing faster than they ever imagined. Eric quit his job too, and jumped in full-time.

Have you ever started something tiny and then thought, "Uh oh... this is getting big!"? That was them. In the summer of 2021, Radha and Eric arrived in Lincolnshire and started working on a derelict old building they'd bought... while still running Little Crafters Boxes at the same time.

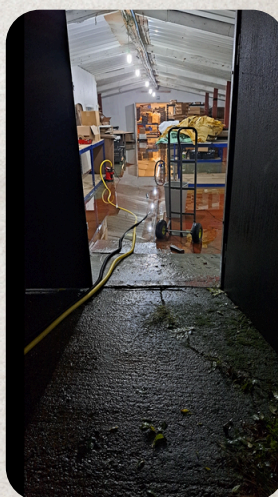


At the start, they had no furniture, no staff, and no idea if the company would still work after the pandemic. The building was in a bad state: no windows, no toilets, no heating, and the lighting was really poor too. And just to make it extra dramatic, they had to battle renovation work, repeated flooding, and some seriously big challenges.



But they didn't quit. Every day, more children were signing up, and Radha and Eric knew the service mattered to families across the country. So they kept going through the late nights and the hard days.

And about those floods... they faced three floods in three years. After the second one, Eric drilled a drain into the workshop so they could collect the water that kept rushing in during heavy downpours and reroute it back outside. Then in 2024, the business fitted trenches all the way around the outside of the building to help protect it from future flooding.



Slowly, things changed. Renovation continued. Furniture appeared. Windows went in. The building started to look like a real place where big ideas could happen. And at the same time, something else was growing too: LCB Education. The boxes began to include an educational element, with AQA Unit Award certificates, workbooks, pre-recorded lessons, and even Functional Skills exams.



By then, the company had grown exponentially — nearly eight times bigger than it was in 2021.

So here's a question for you: when did you first find us? And what was the first thing you made that made you feel proud?

Little Crafters Boxes will be six years old on 31 December 2026. Are we finished yet? I doubt it.

We're only just beginning...



ECLIPSE EXCITEMENT - A MOMENT WE'LL REMEMBER

On Wednesday 12th August, it was no ordinary football training. At the Ruskington Lions, on the football pitch, something extraordinary was about to happen. Radha and her family were there – but they weren't just kicking a ball around. Instead, they were gathered with everyone else, peering through a handcrafted cardboard box eclipse viewer – a seriously ingenious piece of DIY science engineering – waiting for the Moon to make its grand entrance.

Here's the geeky bit: a solar eclipse happens when the Moon moves in front of the Sun from our point of view, so the Sun looks like it's being covered up. It's basically the Moon doing the biggest, boldest photobomb in the solar system!

Annoyingly, eyeballs aren't the kind of thing you can swap out like LEGO pieces – so here's the important bit: never look straight at the Sun, even during an eclipse. The light can still damage your eyes. Normally you'd watch using proper eclipse safety glasses... but then... disaster! In loads of places they sold out.

Luckily for us, this was absolutely no problem for our community – you're basically a squad of next-level creative geniuses. Instead of missing out, you went straight into craft mode like, "Right then, eclipse... let's do this properly."

We saw seriously brilliant DIY viewing ideas using everyday objects – turning the eclipse into a full-on science mission, with a big, glorious side of making.

Take the colander (yes, the pasta strainer!). When you hold it up the sunlight shines through the tiny holes. Every hole in the colander should project lots and lots of tiny crescent Suns all at once! Genius, right?

Then there were classic pinhole projectors: a simple bit of card or paper with a tiny hole poked in it. You stand with the Sun behind you. Watch the magic: Look at the bottom piece of paper. You should see a small projected image of the Sun which will become a crescent as the Moon moves in front of it!

And who's been eating cereal for breakfast, lunch and dinner just to get an empty box for an Eclipse Viewer? You turn a cardboard cereal box into a safe little "movie projector" by making a tiny pinhole on one side so sunlight shines through and forms a small image of the Sun on a white screen inside the box. Then you look at the screen (not the Sun) and watch the eclipse like a proper science spy.

And here's a weird thought... the next one is scheduled for 23rd September 2090 – which feels so far away it's basically science fiction. Where will you be when it happens, and what will we use to watch it next time: a cereal box, a colander, or something even more brilliantly bonkers?



LET'S GET HYGGE!

There's something magical about the shift into autumn and winter. The air turns crisp, leaves crunch underfoot, and suddenly all you want is to wrap up warm, light a candle, and create something beautiful with your hands.



This is why our seasonal theme is all about Hygge (pronounced Hoo-gah!)- a Danish word for that cosy feeling of warmth, togetherness, and contentment from simple pleasures. We're embracing nature in everything we make: scarecrows, autumn lanterns, leaf keyrings, straw Yule goats, twig stars, Japanese festival trees, autumn winter wreaths, and so much more.

Hygge isn't just about being indoors - it's about slowing down, noticing the beauty in nature's changes, and bringing a little of the outside in. Think woodland walks to gather materials, foraging for conkers and acorns, and then coming home to transform them into treasures.

Each craft in this season's box is designed to connect you with the natural world while keeping things cosy and calm. Whether you're making a scarecrow, crafting a glowing lantern, or building a miniature woodland scene, every project invites you to slow down and enjoy the process.



At LCB we can show you how Hygge looks a bit different for everyone, and we love that. Here's what it means to some of the Little Crafters team:

Radha loves Hygge outdoors - foraging in nature for ingredients to make jams and cordials. For her, Hygge is that calm, happy feeling of collecting something from the world and turning it into a cosy, delicious treat. There's something deeply satisfying about gathering berries or herbs and knowing you're going to transform them into something you'll enjoy all season long.

Shannon thinks Hygge is hot chocolate with her family - warm mugs, cosy socks, and a good chat (with extra marshmallows if possible). For her, it's not about the fancy things; it's about being together, warm, and unhurried. That's the real magic.

Lisa finds Hygge by being outside and listening to nature. For her, it's the quiet magic of birdsong, wind in the trees, and noticing what's around you. She doesn't need to be indoors to feel cosy - sometimes the best Hygge happens when you're wrapped up warm, standing still, and really listening to the world.

Elisabeth experiences Hygge through crafting - trying different materials, making something with her hands, and enjoying that peaceful "I'm in the zone" feeling. For her, Hygge is the process itself: the textures, the focus, the satisfaction of creating something beautiful. Every stitch, every layer, every detail matters.



This month, try making one tiny moment feel extra cosy. Find a quiet corner, gather something that brings you joy - whether it's soft textures, like a snuggly blanket, warm light, or the materials for a craft - pop on some gentle music, and just be for a little while. Then ask yourself: What makes you feel most Hygge - warm light, nature, tasty treats, or making something with your hands?

WHAT'S COMING NEXT MONTH?

THE TOE-TALLY AWESOME BOX

Budding Crafters

NEW UNIT
TOE PRINT
IDENTITY

BIG FOOT



71478 TEXTILES:
SOCK PUPPET

SOCK
PUPPET



NEW UNIT
HUMAN
ANATOMY: THE
FOOT

BONES OF
THE
FOOT PUZZLE



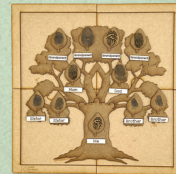
Standard Crafters

NEW UNIT
MAKING A PAIR OF
SLIPPERS

MAKE
YOUR
OWN
SLIPPERS



NEW UNIT
TOE PRINT FAMILY
TREE



TOEPRINT FAMILY TREE

NEW UNIT
MEASURING FEET
AND SHOE SIZES



FOOT MEASURER

114096 PERSONAL
HYGIENE
AWARENESS

Skilled Crafters

NEW UNIT
MAKING A
PROSTHETIC FOOT



3D FOOT MODEL

78969 DRAWING
HUMAN HEADS,
HANDS AND FEET

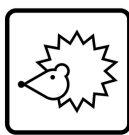
NEW UNIT
MEASUREMENT:
IMPERIAL FEET TO
METRIC

Deluxe Add-on Option

NEW UNIT
UNDERSTANDING
FEET AND THEIR
SMELLS



FOOT CARE KIT



**Little
Crafters
Boxes**

INTRODUCING OUR CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP



We're so excited to share some big news with our Crafty Hedgehog community – from September, our Get Featured activities will be delivered through Children's University! This means your brilliant creations can still be shared in the Crafty Hedgehog (we love celebrating your ideas), and you'll also have the chance to earn Children's University stamps for taking part. It's a lovely way to turn your crafting, exploring, and learning at home into something you can collect and feel proud of.

What is Children's University (and what do the stamps mean?)

Children's University celebrates learning that happens anywhere – not just in a classroom. It helps children discover new interests, try new experiences, and track the enrichment activities they complete at home and in the community. When you take part in Children's University activities, you can earn stamps as a record of your learning adventures. Over time, those stamps add up to show how much you've explored and achieved – and for many children, they can also count towards reward milestones and badges through their Children's University membership. To find out more visit their website at www.childrensuniversity.co.uk

How to claim your Children's University stamp (and get featured!)

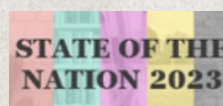
To claim your stamp, complete the activities (and any builds inside your box), then submit evidence of what you've done:

- Email photos to thecraftyhedgehog@littlecraftersboxes.co.uk
- Or share photos in our Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/littlecraftersboxes

We'll confirm your participation and you'll be sent your Children's University stamp.

This month's activity ideas:

1. **Create a Mini Earth in a Jar!** Make a mini terrarium using a clear jar, soil, small plants or moss, and a few pebbles. Watch what happens over the following weeks and think about how water, air, soil, and living things work together.
2. **Become your own meteorologist!** Keep a weather diary for a week. Draw or write what you notice each day (sunshine, clouds, temperature, rainfall, wind). At the end, see if you can spot patterns or predict the next day's weather.
3. **Become a volcano scientist!** Build a model volcano using recycled materials, clay, or paper. Find out why volcanoes erupt and label the parts of your volcano. (Optional: make it erupt using a safe baking soda and vinegar reaction.)
4. **Theatre of Science: Weather Module** Try the weather module from Children's University Validated Learning Destination, Theatre of Science: <https://www.theatreofscience.co.uk/weather>



WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH?

EARTH SYSTEMS

Budding Crafters

120515 SENSORY
INTRODUCTION TO
MEASURING
LENGTH, MASS
AND CAPACITY

VOLCANO DIORAMA



We included this because it's the kind of big, satisfying build that makes Earth science feel properly exciting. As children create their own light-up volcano scene, they start to understand volcanoes as more than "mountains that go boom" – it's about pressure building up, magma moving, and the fact that the Earth is occasionally a bit dramatic. And when it lights up, it adds that little touch of magic that makes the science stick, usually followed by brilliant questions like "Why do some volcanoes explode and others just ooze?" and "What's the difference between magma and lava?" (which, as you'll discover, becomes a whole thing).

129284 LAYERS
OF THE EARTH

LAYERS OF THE
EARTH POP UP



This gives children that brilliant "OH!" moment where the planet suddenly makes sense. Building the pop-up helps them picture the crust, mantle, and core as real layers (not just words), and it gently introduces the big idea that what happens deep inside the Earth affects everything we see on the outside. It's one of those crafts that almost always sparks extra questions too, like "Could we ever dig to the centre of the Earth?" (short answer: no... longer answer: fascinating) and "Why is the core so hot?"

115321
INTRODUCTION TO
RAIN, WEATHER AND
THE SUN

"WEATHER MAGNETS



These magnets turn weather-watching into something children actually want to do. Having a little magnet sign to move each day makes the atmosphere feel real and close-by, and it quietly builds the habit of noticing patterns over time (without it ever feeling like "now we must learn science"). It's practical, it gets used, and it naturally leads to lovely little curiosities too – like cloud spotting (you'll never look at the sky the same again) and wondering, "Why does the wind change?"

Standard Crafters

74737 HUMAN
ACTIVITY AND ITS
EFFECT ON CLIMATE
CHANGE

FOOD MILES MAP



This craft turns everyday eating into a detective story. Mapping where food comes from helps children connect resources, geography, and human systems in a way that feels real, and it highlights how food often travels much further than we expect before it reaches our plates. It's Earth Systems through real-world choices, and it tends to spark brilliant questions like "Where does our food actually come from?" and "What can we grow in the UK in different seasons?" (warning: you may end up Googling "when are British strawberries actually British").

74987 THE
WATER CYCLE

WATER CYCLE
PLANTER



We included this because it makes the water cycle feel like something children can actually see happening, not just memorise. As the planter does its thing, it brings evaporation, condensation, and precipitation to life in a simple, satisfying way – and because it keeps working after the craft is finished, it becomes the best kind of hands-on science: the kind you can come back to and notice again and again. It also naturally sparks bigger questions, like "Why do some places flood and others don't?" and "How do clouds hold so much water without it falling out immediately?"

123799 RESTLESS
EARTH: BELOW THE
EARTH'S SURFACE

TECTONIC PLATES
GLOBE



This one helps children understand that the Earth's surface isn't fixed – it's constantly shifting and moving as tectonic plates meet at different boundaries. Making it hands-on turns "the world" into something real and physical, not just a picture in a book, and it often leads straight into brilliant questions like "Where do earthquakes happen most?" and "Why are there mountain ranges in some places and not others?"

OTHER WORKBOOK UNITS:

108374 SCATTER GRAPHS AND CORRELATION

Skilled Crafters

118338 TECTONIC
HAZARDS

MOUNTAIN
FORMATION
SHADOWBOX



Children will learn that mountains aren't just "there" – they're made, slowly and powerfully, by the Earth itself. As they build up the layers, it's a simple way to introduce big ideas like the lithosphere and asthenosphere, continental crust, and mountain building, without it feeling heavy or textbooky. Because it's such a striking, finished piece, it has that proper "I made this" feeling – layered, meaningful, and genuinely impressive – which usually sparks questions like "How did the Himalayas form?" and "Do mountains grow?" (yes... and they erode too. The Earth gives, and the Earth takes away).

OTHER WORKBOOK UNITS:

113634 UNDERSTANDING THE
CLIMATE CRISIS

121081 UNDERSTANDING SCATTER
GRAPHS

Deluxe Add-on Option

120636 CLIMATE EXPLORATION

CHANGING EARTH
TEXTURE PLAQUE



We included this because it helps children feel the Earth as well as learn about it. Creating different landform textures makes it easier to talk about the processes that shape the surface over time – weathering, erosion, pressure, heat – without it turning into a lecture, and it's a brilliant "extra" that works across ages. It's also one of those crafts that naturally prompts great chats as you go, like "Why do some rocks look swirly?" and "What's the difference between a rock and a mineral?" (you'll think you know... then you'll realise you don't. It's fine. None of us do!).