1. Leaf sorting activity

Collect together various leaves from around the garden, or a local park/area. Then compare them by colour, size, etc. using a Carroll Diagram.

This activity is discussion-rich because leaves come in all shapes, sizes and colours. As such, children can talk in depth about these differences and how best to categorise them.

2. Tree identification

Alternatively, why not conduct a survey of all the different types of trees in your area? (Go to the timetable to a tree identification sheet.) You can record findings on a map with a key and then display the number of different types of tree on a bar chart.

3. Matchsticks or just sticks!

If you don't have twigs, why not use rulers or glue sticks.

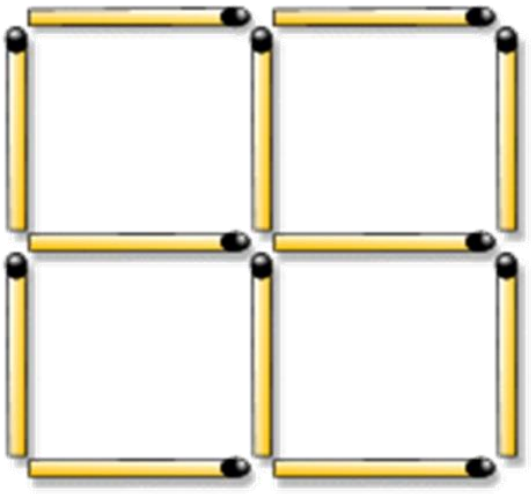
Use twigs to create a variety of 'matchstick' puzzles but on a larger scale.

Show children this math stick picture ask them to copy the shape below with their twigs. Then ask the question below. Then give the instruction:

Move two twigs to make 7 square rectangles.

Can they work out what to do?

There are hundreds of matchstick puzzles to try, so you won't run out. Take a look at Maths on Fire or copy some examples from the internet to use as problem solving challenges outside.



What is a Carroll Diagram?

A Carroll Diagram is a way of sorting objects, numbers and shapes by their traits. It looks like a table and allows people to sort data with more than two criteria into boxes in a visual way using yes/no situations. Numbers or objects are either categorised as 'x' (having an attribute x) or 'not x' (not having an attribute 'x').