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*GlobalMac (NZ)* bring you some great new outdoor toys for kids.

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*Three things* that we think are pretty amazing really.

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*WIN* one of two Double Passes to Armageddon Expo Auckland.

# Say what...

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*Spring has sprung...*



YOUR MONTHLY SLICE OF WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE KIWIREVIEWS NETWORK.  
*Consumer Events • Product Reviews • Media Updates • Competitions*

# Indoor Garden Fun... *With Kids*

*What do you do when you want to explore the garden and new plants out in the dirt but the spring rain keeps getting in your way? Explore it indoors, of course.*

**Kym Moore**  
Assistant Editor



Spring has sprung and that means the draw of the garden, exploring the dirt, mud pies and wiggly earthworms. But on wet spring days, it's sometimes better to explore these things indoors. Here is a selection of fun activities to do with your kids when the rain is keeping you inside.

## **Carrot and Dirt Collage**

Draw a carrot shape onto orange craft paper or card. If you don't have orange paper, use white paper and then colour the shape orange with felt tip pens, crayons or paint. Make the carrot top using green paper or by colouring in white paper so you have a lovely leafy green carrot top. You can then assemble your carrots on

white paper. Using glue, attach the carrot and the carrot top to the paper. If you like, you can do several carrots in a row.

Take a small amount of dry dirt. If you have a potted plant in your house, you can raid that. Coat your carrots in PVA glue and then sprinkle the dirt onto the picture like glitter. Pat down lightly so that it sticks to the glue. Shake off the excess onto newspaper or into the bin.

## **Playdough Garden**

Make a garden of playdough, by pressing it into a margarine container or lid. Then have your children create their plants. They can draw onto heavy cardboard and then cut their creations out, or twist pipe-cleaners into cool flower and leaf shapes. Once the plants are created, your children can design their own playdough garden by pushing the stems of their creations into the playdough dirt. You could make it extra realistic by making a cocoa brown playdough at home.

## **Rock Pets**

Use a selection of rocks not much bigger than your child's hand. You can use smooth river stones, or ones you have collected on the beach. If you can't find any locally, you can purchase these in the gardening section of local hardware stores, or garden centres. Using non-toxic paints decorate your pets as you wish. You can make ladybug stones, or use several to make a funny caterpillar or worm with one as the head and the rest as segments of the body. Once dried, you can varnish them so the paint is weather proof and either add them to your garden or let your children care for their new friends.

