

Essex Children's University
October Half Term Challenge 2017

The Forestry Commission

Autumn is our favourite time of year here in the Children's University office and it's a great time to look closer at nature.



The Forestry Commission has some new autumn activities for you to download from

their website. Once completed, for CU Learners to receive a 2 hour stamp in their Passport, you will need to email learning.England@forestry.gsi.gov.uk with photos of their Autumn wand and bookmark, a list of 5 Autumnal feelings and a sentence explaining what they felt when rubbing their hands up and down the trunk of a tree. You will need to include their name, age and which woodland area they visited in the email.

You will find the activities by visiting www.forestry.gov.uk/autumn-activities

2 hours of CU Learning Credits

School for Spooks Chelmsford Library – County Hall, Market Road CM1 1QH 28th October 2017

2pm to 4pm
Free of Charge

Fun storytelling, performing and writing workshop for children aged 8+ (upper age 12 approximately)

What do spooks say? What do you say to spooks? Why do spooks spook?

Perform and write spooky stories, songs and poems in a session led by Martin Reed performance poet and story-teller.

Turn up on the day or call to book on 07880 990443

2 hours of CU Learning Credits



Engineering Challenge

Build the highest, free-standing structure you can with just one sheet of paper

Using as many sheets of paper as you wish

1: Using only paper, build a bridge from table to table (15cm apart or thereabouts) so that a toy car can cross

2: Build a structure that will hold an egg 50cm off the ground

3: Build a structure that will hold a book 30cm off the ground

30 minutes of CU learning for a photo of each structure (do as many as you wish)

Spooky Science

Head to www.sciencebob.com and make a levitating orb!

Imagine you're a scientist observing the floating orb for the very first time, and write up the results of your experiment. Can you explain the science behind how this supernatural-looking experiment works?

1 hour of CU Learning

Junior Psychology Lectures

Join us on Saturday 11th November for our CU Junior Lectures being held at the University of Essex.

The theme for this Lecture Series will be Psychology.

Lectures will start at 11am (arrival at 10.45am) and will be finished by 1pm. Places are limited.

A carousel of family learning activities most suitable for children aged 7+ including research with Dr Maria Laura Filippetti of the University of Essex.

For more details email us essexCUmanager@hotmail.com



During our daily activities, we rarely acknowledge that the body that we have is our own body. But imagine staring at your hand moving, without recognising it as belonging to your body; or not having control over your movements.

We want to understand how children learn to use their different senses to perceive their body.

Our activities will take the form of fun interactive games. For example, we use visual illusions and ask children to try and find out the position of their body in the space.

2 hours of CU Learning Credits



This activity will give our CU Learners the chance to be citizen scientists and carry out some important fieldwork for the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).

What we would like them to do:

- 1: Dig up a small patch of garden, or playing field or green space (not a cricket pitch!) and take a good look at what they see when they turn it over.

This must be done before 31st October 2017

What are they looking for?

- 2: The full name is "soil invertebrates" but they will probably know them as worms, beetles, snails, basically any creature that doesn't have a backbone.

You will find some useful information to help them identify what they find on our website...bulletin board

What will they do with what they find?

- 3: We would like them to sort what they find into groups using the recording sheet that you will also find on our website, this will involve counting and weighing too.

What do we do with the results?

- 4: Email them to us admin@essexchildrensuniversity.co.uk
Please email the results by Wednesday 8th November 2017 at the very latest.

What will we do with the results?

- 5: We will upload our CU Learners results to The pod to help with this national study.

2 hours of CU Learning will be awarded upon submission of the results

We will run this activity again in March and June to see if the seasons have any change on the numbers of bugs they find.

If you can't do it this often, we'd love you to take part still – it all helps.



Collecting CU Learning Credits

Before a CU Learning Credit can be collected, CU Learners will need to show some evidence (to their school/teacher or to us at the Essex CU office) that the activity has been completed. You can either post this to us or email to admin@essexchildrensuniversity.co.uk.

The evidence could be a photograph, a diary/poster, a recording or some writing about when and how they completed the activity. CU Learners are encouraged to record their thoughts and ideas, thinking about how they completed the activity and what they liked about it.