



**Castlecomer  
Discovery Park**  
Yours to enjoy

## FUN WAYS TO LEARN AT HOME SHEET 1 - ROCK BALANCING

### Rock Balancing

Stone stacking is great fun - used by many to relax, to meditate, to practice mindfulness, to create and to play!

No need for glue, string or any other supports - just stack the stones, you'll find the right balance and they will support each other to create some lovely nature art. Stack them in your garden, on your windowsill or in your bedroom. You could even paint the stones for some added colour and creativity!



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
YOU HAVE CREATED A CAIRN!



### MATHS CHALLENGE

- Before building your stack, sort your rocks from largest to smallest.
- How many rocks are in your stack?
- Use a ruler or piece of string to measure your stack - how tall is it in centimetres?
- What shapes are your rocks?
- If you have a kitchen weighing scales, weigh each rock and record its weight in a table.
- Is the biggest rock the heaviest?
- What is the total weight of all the rocks together?

### IRISH TIP

The word cairn comes from a Gaelic term meaning 'heap of stones'. Some place names stem from the word cairn (e.g. Carne in Wexford, Carnew in Wicklow, Carna in Galway or Carndonagh in Donegal).

### HISTORY TIP

Cairns have been used for centuries by many cultures across the world. They are used as trail markers, memorials, markers for the solstice and even as a way to ask for good fortune.



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## YOUR FAMILY ROCKS!

In your garden or on your next walk, collect some rocks/stones/pebbles. Look how different they all are. Rocks are made of grains that fit together. The grains in a rock can be different colours, shapes and sizes.

Coal is Castlecomer's most famous rock – find out more here on [www.discoverypark.ie](http://www.discoverypark.ie)

Like rocks, families come in all sorts of shapes and sizes.

Share your rock family with us.

Find some big stones / small rocks, grab some paints/sharpies/markers and get creative!



## LITERACY TIP

Can you find enough rocks to create the alphabet, to spell your name or even a short message? Paints, markers and Sharpies are great for designing rocks!

## YOUR FAMILY IN NUMBERS:

- How many people are in your family?
- Write down everyone's age in your family in order from the youngest to the oldest (you can include your pet's too!).
- What is the total age of your family (add everyone's age together)?
- What is the age difference between the oldest and youngest people?
- What is the average/mean age of your household?

