

Orienteering at home

At home
orienteering
resources



Why not set up your own orienteering challenge around your house and garden? It's really fun and easy to do and you can incorporate lots of great educational elements along the way.

Below we'll show you a really easy way to plan and deliver your activity.

The benefits?

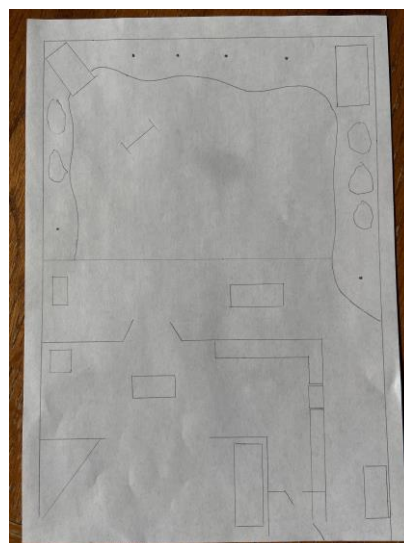
Orienteering around the garden has many benefits and as will be explained later can include:

- Map reading skills,
- Orientation of a map,
- Spelling,
- Problem solving.

Creating your map

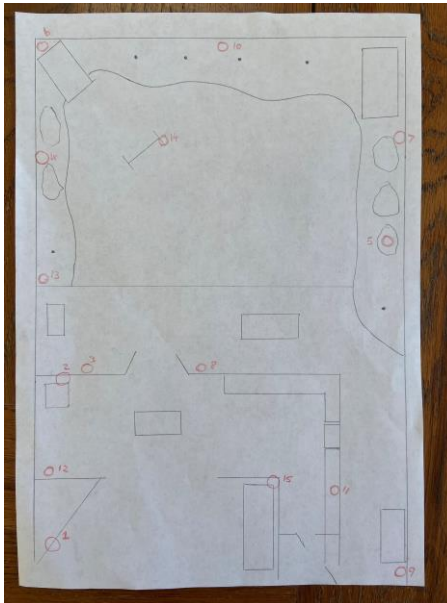
All you need is a blank piece of paper, (you could download our map template if you'd like the traditional map symbols on). Then using a pencil and ruler, just sketch out your garden or house or a combination of both.

If you can scan it to make multiple copies then that will save you time and the ability to do several challenges. This map took no more than 10 minutes to draw.



These markers are available to download and print at home from our home resources page. They are numbered 1 to 10 with a couple of blanks.





Planning your challenge and course

This example shows 15 different control points around the house and garden. Lines haven't been drawn between each point as it was felt this would clutter the map and confuse the child completing the course.

At each control point there is a marker to find, but you could hide various toys or print out some of our traditional orienteering markers from our home resource page. As a special treat you could hide sweets or prizes. It's entirely up to you.



This course was a simple course to find all the controls/ markers around part of the house and the garden.

Getting Started

Decide where you are going to start. This can be marked on the map with a triangle if you wish.

Then spend some time with your child explaining the map, orientating it and asking some questions such as:

- Can they identify the key objects in the garden/ house?
- Where are the doors?
- Can the child identify where they are stood with you at the moment?



These are all important so that your child can use the map successfully. If they appear lost at any point, always refer them back to a part of the map they are confident with, such as the door to the garden.

With any challenge, it may take a few controls/ markers for your child to get the swing of it, but once they do, you won't stop them!

What variations can you do?

These are just some of the ideas we've successfully tried with this challenge. They provide the same activity but delivered in a slightly different way to keep the child engaged and learning at the same time.

Traditional map challenge

What is it?

Simply plotting a number of control/marker points around the map for your child to find.

What skills are learnt?

- Map reading,
- Understanding map orientation,
- Problem solving.

Map challenge with spelling and writing

What is it?

The controls/ markers are set out as previously, however, each time your child gets to the control point, they have to identify what the control is on or in. They then have to write it down, spelling correctly.

What skills are learnt?

- Map reading,
- Understanding map orientation,
- Problem solving,
- Handwriting,
- Spelling.

Let your child create their own map

What is it?

Using one of the templates you created, let your child create their own course for you to enjoy.

What skills are learnt?

- Map reading,
- Problem solving.

