

Den building

- In your woodland area identify a good location to build a den. Safety first: look up and check for any loose branches that could fall from above.
- Gather sticks, twigs and natural materials like ferns or fallen leaves that could help make a den. Only use what is down on the ground - never break branches off living trees.
- Discuss a design. You could make a tent-style or a 'lean to' or perhaps a wigwam if you have some string to tie the structure together. Figure out where the entrance will be and look at wind direction to help stability.
- Support this play – consider other loose parts play materials you may have to hand like tarpaulins, sheets and blankets that the children can use (materials that, if necessary, can be washed and cleaned after use).
- Once it is completed and you have checked the safety of it, perhaps let the children retreat to their dens for some alone time to relax, to listen to the bird calls or perhaps to eat their snack (after washing their hands).
- If you would like some more loose parts play ideas this document can help:
www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Loose-Parts-Play-Toolkit-2019-web.pdf
- Remember to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds when you go back indoors.

Curriculum Supporting exploring ways to design and construct models

Health Guidance Outdoor Play at Emergency Childcare Settings

Correct as at 21 May 2020



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