

Den building!



Den building is an activity which all children enjoy and can provide a special place for children to be.

We have provided some ideas for you to support your child's play at den building.

Have fun!

Suggestions for den making resources

- Tables and chairs
- Cloths, tarpaulins, blankets
- Clothes airers
- String, tape, pegs, glue
- Garden canes
- Large cardboard boxes or boxes deconstructed
- Pens and chalks
- Magazines pictures for cutting and pasting
- Leaves, branches and twigs
- Cushions

Safety points to consider

- Do not leave young children unattended when den building as they are only beginning to learn about using tools safely and balancing objects which may fall on them or others.

Children should be taught:

- Scissors are dangerous and need to be transported and used safely
- String can be dangerous - do not wrap around body parts
- Hammers and mallets need to be used correctly and with supervision to avoid accidents
- When carrying long planks be aware of people around you
- Climbing or balancing on furniture is dangerous

Den building is fun!

Den building supports Children to:

- *Explore arranging and using resources flexibly.*
- *Create their own space to have peace and quiet, to hide, to look at books to play with their favourite toys.*
- *Interact and negotiate ideas with other children and adults.*
- *Talk about shapes space and size.*
- *Be creative and think imaginatively.*
- *Suggest ideas and problem solve.*
- *Explore and learn how to use tools and materials safely and with control.*

Ideas for den making!

There are many things children can use for making dens

- Suspend fabric from door frames and window sills.
- Cover a table or chairs with cloths, sheets, blankets, ground sheets.
- Clothes airers, make especially good frames for dens.
- Add sleeping bags and other camping equipment or picnic food.
- Small tents make fantastic dens.
- Big cardboard boxes can be used on their sides to make spaces to crawl into with cushions.
- Alternatively flatten the boxes and support the children to join them with tape and cut doors and windows from them to look through.

- Help the children to cut pictures from magazines to glue and decorate the walls.
- Help the children to write numbers and names for their dens.
- Out in the garden, park or woods- twigs, branches and leaves can be placed carefully together to make hide-outs.
- Draping a big piece of fabric over a bush makes a great den. You could add some outdoor fairy lights to make magical
- If you are lucky enough to have a garden, try planting beans in a circle, with a space for moving in and out of the circle. Place some garden canes for the beans to grow up and tie together at the top. As the beans grow up the canes and they spread to create a living den.
- Peg cloths over a climbing frame, add homemade bunting, to create a fun place for a house, or shop. whatever the children suggest!

