

Resource 7.

House/Den building instructions

If you use bracken on your shelter, you must wear gloves when collecting and handling it.

Delightful woodland dens Get building!

1 Find a good foundation

This will form the base of your framework, so keep your eyes peeled for a strong tree with suitable nooks, crannies and knobbly bits.



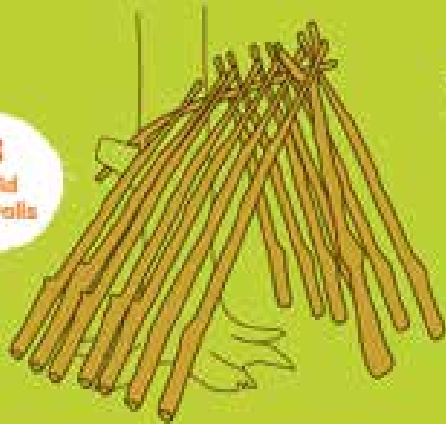
2 Build your framework

Find a couple of large branches and wedge them firmly together against the tree. If your chosen tree has a strong, low branch, even better! You can use this instead.



3 Build the walls

Collect more branches and rest them against your framework. Make sure you pack them closely together so that they're strong and secure.



4 Protect your den from the elements

Use smaller branches, twigs and leaves to cover your den. Remember to push them into any gaps so that your den shelters you from wind and rain.



Please don't cut anything down or damage anything while building your den.

House building Inside

If your school grounds are not suitable for building a House/Den with natural materials or you need to conduct the activities inside. Here are some ideas of what you could do:

You don't need much to get started - normal household items can make brilliant dens! Here are some suggestions:

- **Cardboard boxes** - Children can get creative stacking and styling them to make a den.
- **Garden canes, branches and twigs** - Build wigwams with branches or garden canes tied at the top with string.
- **Furniture** - Use your furniture, playhouse or play frame if you have one - put them together and cover with a blanket to create a den underneath.
- **Covers** - Blankets, sheets, old towels, camouflage netting, ground sheets, all make ideal covers. A waterproof blanket or tarpaulin on the floor creates a dry area to sit down. Cushions or bean-bags make it extra comfy.
- **Fixers** - Let children use bull clips, string, sellotape, ribbons or clothes pegs to hold things in place and secure covers.



Note - this will not take as much time as using natural materials and you may need to supplement with additional activities from the afternoon's session of which there are plenty.