



Hi all, this week our Forest School theme is dens. Mini dens, lean to dens, indoor sheet dens and more. Make a den for yourself, your family or your favourite teddy.

Top tip-all dens need a good foundation, sturdy frame and protective covering.

Types of den we like to build:

Lean to den- sticks laying against a branch or tree.



Tepee den- Begin with a y shape stick and slot straight sticks into the y to form a tepee. Push the sticks into the ground and secure the top with a rope.



A frame or tent den- sticks leaning on either side of a central support. The pole could be laid between 2 tepee frames.



Mini stick dens and hideouts:

- Before you make a mini den, you need to decide who to make it for- a teddy, super hero figure, fairy doll or maybe a dinosaur.
- Now decide what type of den to build and where to build it. If you are making a stick den and you have an adult supervising you may wish to use secateurs to cut your sticks. Remember to keep the blades locked when walking with the secateurs or when you are not using them.
- Start by making a basic frame – pushing sticks firmly into the ground and securing. Add more sticks to make the frame strong.
- Collect natural materials such as branches, ferns, and grasses and lay on the frame to protect your den and to make it camouflaged.
- Add accessories such as a swing, campfire, fire circle, cosy beds and chairs.

Some mini den and hide out ideas:

