



Overview

Fairy dens are a resource-free activity that encourage imagination and close-up exploration of nature. Children use natural materials to create tiny spaces for storytelling and play.



Activities

Share a short story for inspiration, such as *The Leaf Thief*, then invite children to collect twigs, leaves, bark, stones, and grass from the ground. Children build small fairy dens, sharing ideas as they play.

To celebrate, take a gentle walk around the space to visit each fairy den and listen to the stories behind them. Materials are then returned to the ground.

Key Points

- Resource-free and low cost
- Encourages imagination and storytelling
- Uses natural materials already found
- Builds care and respect for the environment

Books to Start the Session Off

- *The Leaf Thief*: Encourages noticing nature, seasons, and small creatures.
- *Fairy Houses*: Inspires gentle, nature-respecting fairy homes.
- *The Stick Man*: Supports storytelling using sticks and natural materials.
- *The Gruffalo*: Sparks imagination about who might live in woodlands.
- *Not a Stick*: Perfect for imaginative play using simple natural items