A Visitor Comes to Stay

Activities

One morning, the children arrive outside to discover something unusual; the beginnings of a huge nest (or lots of little ones).
Large sticks, moss, feathers and branches have been gathered together, but the nest is only half built, maybe whatever started making it left before it could finish? Invite the children to help finish building the nest using sticks, leaves, bark, blankets and natural materials. Nearby, place clues the children might spot. Large footprints pressed in the mud. Shiny objects under leaves, feathers caught in branches, scratch marks on logs or a trail leading off into the bushes.
Who could the nest belong to?
A sleepy dragon?
A giant bird?
A magical woodland creature only seen at night?



Equipment

- Sticks
- Stones
- Moss
- Sheets
- Magical eggs?
- An animal toothbrush?!

Key Questions

Who's built this?
Shall we help them?
What have they stopped here?
Is this a safe place for them?

Learning Outcomes

Simple, imaginative invitations like this encourage collaboration, storytelling, problem solving and creative thinking, while helping children see the outdoor space as somewhere full of possibility, mystery and adventure.

Progression in Learning

- Conversations about animal migration, importance of feeling safe, why/when we should help.
- The homes animals build, nests, webs and dens from around the world.
- Who else visits our garden after dark, maybe set up a camera to find out.