Huts and Hideaways

Overview

Building a hut or hideaway is a fun, imaginative activity for children (of any age). It uses both fine and gross motor skills with the satisfaction of creating or building a structure for playing in of their own creation.



Activities

Go foraging for large branches, sticks and fauna (this maybe done ahead of time, or could form part of the activity). Gather other items such as sheets/ tarpaulins, bungee ties, rope, string and get building!

It might be a tipi for teddy or a food shack to make pizza. Encourage the children plan, implement and review their hut and hideaways, and make changes big (gross motor) and small (fine motor).

Equipment

- Branches/logs
- Small sticks
- Fauna (leaves, moss, flowers)
- Tarpaulins/sheets/blankets
- Bungee Ties
- Rope or String.

Key Questions

What do you need for building?
How can we hold all the pieces together?
What parts of our body are we using to lift/move this branch?
Where can you stand so you can build safely?

The Benefits

- Fine: through threading, weaving, fixing and manipulations of other small objects they are working on finger, hand, and wrist strength.
- Gross: through lifting, transporting, carrying and balancing, they develop large muscle skills, upper body strength and shoulder girdle stability.

Progression in Learning

- Infants – build simple structures with materials children can reach, grasp, crawl over, and pull up on.
- Toddlers – use light materials that are easy to handle. Build large hideaways for independent crawling.