



## Project – Outdoor Den

### You will need:

- Den-building materials
- Get everyone to set about collecting natural materials from the woodland floor. Make sure kids aren't breaking off living branches or damaging trees. If you use any unnatural materials such as string or rope, remember to take them home at the end of the day.
- You will need:
  - long, straight branches and sticks
  - lots of thin, bendy sticks
  - materials to cover your den, such as dried leaves, twigs and grass
  - **Beware.** Make sure to avoid picking or walking through bracken, as it can be home to [ticks](#).

### How to build your den:

- Coming up with your own den design is part of the fun, but here are a couple of simple ideas to get you started.
- Teepee-style den
- Find a tree with a fork in the branches that's quite low down.
- Make a frame by propping some long, straight sticks in the fork and fanning them out. Also make sure that any branches are really secure – you don't want them slipping.
- Weave bendy sticks in and out of the upright sticks to make the walls. Leave a gap at head height for a window.
- Cover your den with natural materials so it's camouflaged and weatherproof. You could use mud to stick them on.
- Scatter a carpet of dried leaves on the floor to make your den extra cosy.