

## ACTIVITY 8



### Den Building / Mini-dens

<b>Season</b>	All
<b>Site</b>	All that have trees, scrub, shrubs or sufficient cover
<b>Age Group</b>	4/5 years and above
<b>No. of Children</b>	Any



**Equipment Needed:** none but rope and tarpaulins can be used to enhance the dens.

#### Safety Notes

Ensure that trees and branches are sturdy before selecting it for a den location. When transporting items to the dens ensure that safe lifting practises are adhered to. Watch out for thorns, nails in wood etc. Gloves and safe footwear are advisable.

#### Instructions

The beauty of den building is that each person will approach it in a different way and this should be encouraged. However, the following should be given as guidance at the beginning of the session:

1. Dens should usually be built in groups or teams.
2. Spread the teams out so that they are not in direct sight of each other
3. When selecting an area, choose a flat area that is not slippy and safe in other ways. With young children help them to identify this.
4. Items such as branches, twigs, brash, overhanging branches, leaves and tarpaulins and string (if available) can be used. Remind the group not to collect dangerous items such as berries, prickly plants or man-made litter.
6. Try to make it camouflaged and waterproof.
7. At the end of the activity, take the groups to visit each others' dens and ask the creators to explain how they made their dens.
8. Take the dens down at the end of the session as they can be a fire hazard and / or encourage people to use them at night.

#### Mini-Dens

This activity is identical to the above but the mini-dens are not built for people to go in, they are built for either boggarts or play-dough creatures (or imaginary creatures such as fairies). These are ideal for younger children who might struggle to carry heavy items to build dens, or when there is not enough time to complete the big dens.

