

Team challenges

A range of activities to encourage children to work in pairs or small teams to overcome challenges.

Making a nest

Resources: sticks of different lengths, dead leaves, pebbles

In groups children make a nest for eggs. Collect pebbles - how many can fit into the nest before it breaks apart?



Tallest twig tower

Resources: sticks of different lengths, measuring stick

In groups can children work out how to make the tallest tower using sticks.

Building a strong tower

Resources: tennis ball, old pair of tights/stocking, sticks, cardboard boxes, tubes, masking tape, clay, straws.

Make a simple pendulum for the children to use (a tennis ball inside tights works well) and secure it to a branch or a stick secured to two benches/chairs etc. Can the children make a tower that won't be knocked down by the pendulum? Let them experiment using different materials, position of the tower or force of the swing.



Building dens

Resources: buckets with poles in concrete, gazebo weights, bamboo sticks, tarpaulin, shower curtains, bamboo sticks, masking tapes, pegs, rope

Give children a whiteboard and pen so they can plan what their den will look like.

This can be done in a range of different ways:

- Connect bamboo sticks to make a cube or a pyramid. Provide children with a range of material to put over the frame, e.g. sheets, shower curtain, tarpaulin, plastic sheeting, etc.
- Set poles of wood in concrete to be the corners of the shelter. Let children work out how to attach their material to it and at which height. Ideally, have something to peg the material to or drill holes in the wood so that the material can be tied to it.
- Give children bamboo sticks of different sizes, masking tape and rubber connectors - can children design and build a den?

Problem solving challenges

Can you build a den to keep you dry when it rains?

Can you build a den to protect you from the sun?

Can you build a den that can fit a defined number of children in or is a defined height?

Can they make a den for a character, e.g. Barnaby Bear or the Gruffalo - what would need to be inside it?



Nightline

Resources: long pieces of rope, interesting things to touch, obstacles, e.g. tube, blindfolds

Set up a nightline trail - attach rope from tree to tree leading it under and over obstacles, making sure that children can navigate it safely when blindfolded. Attach interesting objects to the rope that children can feel.

Working in pairs, one child leads another which is blindfolded along the rope - can they guess what the objects are?

If younger children are unsure about being blindfolded they could walk backwards or close their eyes.



Rescue the teddy

Resources: teddy, sticks, cardboard boxes, tubes, masking tape, clay, straws

The teddy has climbed up onto the picnic bench overnight and cannot get down - can you work out how to rescue him?

Folding mat challenge

Resources: plastic mats

Give 6 children a mat - can they fit onto the mat. With adult help can they fold the mat in half - can they fit onto it now?