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Borough Council
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Building a den...

This can be on whatever scale you can do and wherever you can do it during the lockdown! Den building is just as fun using chairs and sheets or cardboard boxes.

Small scale - for pre-schoolers

We thought about what Benjamin Bunny needs to survive. We came up with food, drink, shelter and air (which we decided was in plentiful supply so we didn't need to worry about it) and set about finding and making everything he needed. We built him a small shelter, found him some yellow gorse flowers as food (I always tell children not to pick living things – some were found on the floor). We came prepared with water and a cup to make him a special woodland cocktail to drink.



You can use this [BBC bitesize clip](#) to reinforce what animals need to survive.

Larger scale - for older children

Can you build a shelter big enough to fit inside? Here is how you can do this:

- Look for a tree with a fork in it.
- Rest a long stick from the fork to the ground. Make sure it is secure.
- Find sticks to rest against it. Whatever method you use make sure the sticks you place are secure and aren't going to fall on you when you are inside.

When you've finished it should look a bit like an A-frame tent.



Remember: Don't damage any living things in your construction – only use things from the floor.

Do you think your shelter is good enough to protect you from the elements? If you are feeling confident, get a grown up to test this. Go inside your den and get them to sprinkle water over it. Did you get wet?!

If you want to link this loosely to the curriculum do some research on the Stone Age and Stone Age dwellings!

Dens on a tiny scale - for toddlers

Build a fairy home in the woods or in your garden or house. If you are making one in the woods use natural materials only or remember to take everything away with you.

Clay was used to make the bodies and heads of fairies in the pictures below but you could try play dough instead! There are lots of [Play Doh recipes online](#).

Think about the following to help you create your fairy home:

- What can you find to use as fairy cups?
- What could the fairies use to eat off?
- What would they eat?
- How can you make their home comfortable?

We made a washing line out of wooden skewers/sticks, some thread and cut mini clothes out of fabric destined for the fabric recycling bin.



We hope you enjoyed these activities. We would love to see what your dens look like. Please email us photos of your creations at countryside@elmbridge.gov.uk

Want to try something different? You can find other countryside activities worksheets at elmbridge.gov.uk/countryside.