



## Activity ideas to support Learning at Home 2-5 year olds Early Years Service, Children's Services Buckinghamshire Council

### What you need

Pegs / Sticks  
Blanket/ towels/ Picnic Rug  
Table/ sofa/ chair  
Cardboard boxes



## DEN BUILDING

Make a den by covering a table, chairs or a sofa with a blanket, all cosy and dark. This makes a great hidden space to play. Leave it there and see how it is can be used by your child.



"When children pretend they're using their imagination to move beyond the bounds of reality. A stick can be a magic wand. A sock could be a puppet. A small child can be a super hero."

- Fred Rogers

**Den building** is a fantastic activity to enjoy with your children, why not

Create a  
Castle

Secret pirates cave

International space station

Fairy House

Aeroplane

The excellent thing is your child can choose what they Den becomes. It is versatile and can change to provide hours of entertainment.

## CASTLE

Can your child be a Prince, Princess, fairy god mother?

Can you extend by pretending to be an ugly sister or another character, For more ideas visit

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/goldilocks-story>

Why don't you Introduce books into your den? Add a torch or use your phone torch to shine the light as you read books together camera and share books.

Try more ideas here [Stick Man](https://www.stickmanofficial.com/)  
<https://www.stickmanofficial.com/>

## Information for Parents/ Carers

### Communication and Language

#### You might notice that your child can:

Pretend things when they are playing, like using a coat on their head “this is my magic flying cape”.

Use simple sentences with 3-4 words to talk about what they are doing or what is happening.

Talk about what we are doing now, and what might happen later.

### Physical Development

#### You might notice that your child can:

Run, walk, jump, lift, push and move around in lots of different ways. Practice running around collecting materials to use and will demonstrate lifting, carrying, pushing and rolling things into place and perhaps some fine manipulative skills with pegging their den’s together.

This is not a stick....

It’s a wand  
It’s a guitar  
It’s a guitar  
It’s a shovel  
It’s a baton  
It’s a telescope  
It’s a sword  
It’s a microscope  
It’s a ski pole  
It’s a spoon  
It’s a fishing pole  
It’s a treasure finder  
It’s a paddle

And anything else a child can imagine.....!



### Find out More

[Hungry Little Minds – Simple fun, activities for kids aged 0 – 5](#)

[Small Talk - ideas for Parents](#)

[Action for children –Den building](#)

[What to expect when – Developmental Guide for Parents](#)

### Top Tips

#### Chatting Matters

Let children create their own structures and they can use their own imaginations to create anything.

Encourage children to solve problems logically and practice building and fixing their den.

Vocabulary and increasing the number of new words you child hears every day is very important for future learning It is the perfect place to role play and they can demonstrate an understanding of the world we live in.

### Need some inspiration?

Visit Bucks Family information Service virtual tours. [BFIS Virtual Tours](#)