



WOOLLY STICK TENTS

Materials you need:

- Basket of coloured wool cut into short, medium and long strands.
- 3 x sticks per child (at least 30cm long)
- String for tying sticks together.

Setup for play:

- Show the children how to begin wrapping the coloured wool strands around the sticks they choose to use. Mention that there are short, long and medium pieces of wool to use.
- When they have covered their sticks in colourful wool it's time to make the tents!
- Help the children bunch the tops of their 3 sticks together and tie some string around the circumference to hold it together. Spread the base of the sticks out to form the tent/teepee construction.
- Add loose parts and other materials for the children to add to their tents and use with their play.

What are they learning with this activity?

As they wrap the wool and build their tent they are learning to:

- Persist even when they find a task difficult
- Work together and negotiate in a group with others
- Listen to and follow directions
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Manipulate equipment and natural materials with increasing competence
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, dexterity and wrist control as they wrap and twist the wool then tie sticks together
- Express themselves creatively
- Problem solve and make decisions
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Make decisions about the materials they want to use and what works best.
- Work independently on a project

Extending the play:

- Use large sticks and branches to build a child size tent to play in. Make it a group project with everyone helping to wrap wool balls and hold the sticks up so the tops can be tied together to form the tent structure.
- You could also paint the larger sticks or branches instead of wrapping wool using sponge stampers or paint roller brushes.

