



## MAKE A STICK MAZE

### Materials you need:

- Paper and pens (for the maze designing step).
- Lots of long sticks and branches. Turn the collecting of sticks into a separate activity beforehand.
- If you can't access sticks try grass clippings, hay, leaves, sugar cane mulch (buy in bales)

### Setup for play:

- Ask the children to draw their own maze. Encourage keeping it simple and to think about the sticks they have collected.
- Using the map they made on paper they can begin arranging the materials you all collected.
- Try nominating a leader that can help direct where to put the sticks and materials. If you have a small group of children you might like to swap the leader over throughout the activity so that everybody gets a turn. If doing the activity with a larger group try separating into teams.
- This activity should encourage an exploration of trial and error. If the children make the outside of the square too small, they may have to change their plan - let them know that's okay as builders and architects often have to change their plans in real life too!
- Once complete everyone can join in the fun of running through the maze.

## **What are they learning with this activity?**

As the children design and build their maze they are learning to:

- Use their sense of touch, sight and smell to make choices and create
- Explore, infer, predict
- Work together in a group with others
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Explore simple scientific concepts through play and observation
- Strengthen fine motor muscles and control
- Use their senses to explore and choose natural materials
- Use their play to imagine and explore ideas
- Persist even when they find the task difficult
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Problem solve and make decisions
- Understand basic position concepts
- Listen to and follow directions
- Coordinate and strengthen their large muscles as they bend, stretch, turn and twist.
- Problem solve and make decisions to meet their needs
- Experiment with cause and effect
- Negotiate roles, responsibilities and relationships

## **Extending the play:**

- Put blindfolds on and see if the children can call out directions to lead those blindfolded through the maze.
- Print pictures of architectural landmarks from around the world and ask children to design their own versions.
- Split into teams and use the sticks to build shelters.