



STICK HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

Materials you need:

- A flat stable surface for building.
- Large collection of small sticks and twigs
- Rubber bands and string.
- Blu tack or similar
- Material scraps (optional)

Setup for play:

- Lay out all materials on a large table and encourage the children to build their own houses using just sticks.
- Rubber bands, string and blu tack can all be used in different ways to keep the sticks together.
- Encourage children to think outside the box and experiment with what works – houses might be tents, tepee's, big, small etc.
- Material scraps could be used to create walls.
- Who might live in your house? Where would you build it? How could you make it bigger/smaller?

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children build stick houses they are learning to:

- Classify, sort by category and group items together by similarities, patterns and differences
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and concentration
- Manipulate small objects using pincer movements
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Manipulate equipment and real life tools with increasing competence
- Persist even when they find the task difficult
- Work independently on a project
- Listen to and follow directions
- Show increasing independence and competence
- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve
- Explore trial and error.

Extending the play:

- Add some greenery to the twigs and see who can make a 'stickman'. Have a copy of the story to provide inspiration.
- Use the twigs to build sail boats and see which one's float in the water tub!

