



SIMPLE BUG HOTEL

Materials you need:

- 2 litre plastic softdrink or water bottle cut into two cylinders (1 for each child – ask them to collect and bring in)
- Sticks/small twigs
- Bark
- Old terracotta pots broken up
- Small wood scraps with drilled holes

Setup for play:

- Cut the bottom and top of each bottle off leaving just the middle. Cut the middle piece in half to form two cylinders.
- Lay out the natural materials you have and arrange by size and texture – you might need to snap the twigs to make them a little smaller.
- Use the materials to begin layering and stuffing the drink bottle cylinders – you want to pack everything in quite firmly so you may need to help with this part a little.
- Leave outside to see what bugs and insects you can attract. Using local materials will help you to attract local bugs!
- This bug hotel is meant to be a small portable version the children can take home. If you have a permanent space to use you might like to take on a larger bug hotel construction as part of a group project.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children collect and select natural materials to make their bug hotels they are learning to:

- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve
- Recognise their individual achievements and successes – show pride in their work
- Understand lifecycles and broaden their understanding of the world
- Make predictions and generalisations about aspects of the natural world around them
- Use their senses to explore the natural environment
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and increase their spatial awareness
- Develop new vocabulary and language skills
- Recognise symbols and how things can represent other things
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Respect and care for natural living things
- Persevere and experience the satisfaction of a job done well and sense of achievement
- Understand the interdependence between land, plants and people.

Extending the play:

- Make some small and simple birdfeeders together.
- Try making some [worm tunnels/towers like this one](#) to sit in the vegetable garden or a planter if you only have a small space.

