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November Activity Sheet

Playing Together: Make an Indoor Den

Make a den using whatever you have available such as hanging large pieces of fabric/sheets/ blanket etc . over chairs or a table to make a roof and walls. If you have a pop-up tent or a simple wendy house this could also work well. It's a great thing to do when you have more than one child, or when friends come to play.

Decide together with your child what it will be for – here are some suggestions: a home corner, a play hospital, a bus, a mini playgroup for dollies and teddies, a vet surgery, a teddy bear's hideaway in the woods, an undersea world, a space-ship.



For younger children, i.e. the 2-3 year olds, it is best to choose something using familiar themes – e.g. a home corner, a doll's hospital, a teddy bear's hideaway.

For older children i.e. the over 4 year olds, let their imagination take over. Bring toys and useful objects into the space to create the den.

Most of the fun will be in putting the den together, and there will be lots of chatting opportunities in deciding what to put in, where it should go, what it is for. Use your imagination with cardboard boxes etc to junk model any bits of "furniture" or props. Decorate the walls together with pictures you've made, such as windows for the home corner, sea and fish for the undersea world, cat and dog posters for the vet surgery, and you could even suspend toy fish so they appear to be swimming around you!

The value of a Den is that research has found it can really encourage more chatter from children than other types of play activity, and is great for stimulating imaginative play, story making and conversation. Let your child or children lead, and you follow, making suggestions and providing help when needed, but enjoy being a part of their world!

How Does This Activity Help My Child?

- ✓ By developing Imaginative Play
- ✓ By introducing new Vocabulary in a meaningful and fun context
- ✓ By providing Conversation Starters
- ✓ By helping your child to Sequence Ideas
- ✓ By developing Narrative Skills