

# Simply Sticks

There are endless things you can do with sticks ... allow children free play in a natural setting and it won't be long before they've invented their own game using a stick or two! Here are our top 5 things to do with sticks. Please remember to look after the environment and only collect fallen objects.

## Create some natural art



Get creative with sticks. Make different shapes, stick people or animals.

Add detail using other natural objects. Can you make your name out of sticks?



## Build a Fairy House

A good place to build your fairy house is in a hollow at the base of a tree trunk, but anywhere will do. Push sticks into the grounds at an angle against the tree trunk to create the shelter. You can make your shelter more sturdy by laying grass or leaves over the sticks and adding a stick or leaf door.

Fill your fairy house with miniature furniture made out of different sized sticks and stones for tables, chairs and beds. Add soft furnishings out of moss, leaves and petals. Let your imagination run wild and collect fairy food for your house from seeds and other natural ingredients.



## Make a journey stick

Find a sturdy stick and to take with you on a journey. Along the way collect found objects to remind you of your walk, such as feathers, leaves, fallen petals, seeds or stones. Using coloured wool, ribbons, sellotape and elastic bands, attach them to your stick in the order in which you found them from top to bottom. You will end up with a colourful reminder of your adventure.

You can use your journey stick to help you retell your journey as a story, or to help you draw a map when you get back home.

## Play stones and cross-sticks

This is an outdoor version of noughts and crosses with all the same rules but no pen and paper needed. Construct your grid out of 4 long sticks. Then, instead of drawing noughts and crosses, use stones and make crosses out of little sticks.

## Make a stick frame

Frames are great for focusing on a view or something closer. Collect four sticks of equal length. Use them to make a square by laying them out with the ends slightly overlapping each other. Carefully tie the corners of the square together, winding the string around several times. Use some spare string to decorate your picture frame with other natural materials.



## ...then turn it into a raft!

Instead of decorating your frame, tie more sticks across the frame in the same direction, to fill in the square. Float your raft on a pond or puddle. Can you find some stick people to ride on your raft?