

Beavers My Adventure Challenge Award

Take Part In **Six** Other Outside Activities

Building A Den

By Samantha Eagle

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My Adventure Challenge Award

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WARNING

If you are using a colour printer and do not intend to print in colour you must change your print settings to “Greyscale” if you don’t do this the pictures will not print clearly (your print settings are found in the print dialog box).

Overview

For this activity the children are going to build their own den. Ideally you will go to a forest and build it but if this isn’t possible there are some alternatives to building this outside your meeting place.

Preparation & Considerations Before The Meeting

1. Decide where you want to build your dens. This will dictate what materials you need.
2. Look at the pictures in this document to give you ideas on what sort of den you want the children to build. You can build a quick den in minutes with chairs and sheets however if you are going to attempt some of the ones in the photos it could take at least 45 minutes then you may want to consider:
 - a. Extending your session or turning it into a sleepover so the children can enjoy their den for a bit longer
 - b. Or if your den can be left for the following week this would be great too
 - c. Consider having a little party in the den, where the children can just chat and enjoy some naughty food and maybe sing some songs
 - d. I don’t think the time in the den should be too organised, children just like to sit and chat and feel like it’s their place to be left alone for a while. So enjoy a break while they are just enjoying their time in the den
 - e. If you are planning to build more than one den the children could spend some time in one den and then swop to see what it’s like in another

Preparation & Materials Needed

1. Print out a copy of the den pictures in this document to give to the children let’s say four children sharing to save printing. This will give them ideas on how they want to build their den
2. You will need to collect a mixture of the following material for the dens.

No possible access to a forest - Structure for a den just outside your building

- a. Pegs to clip things together
- b. Thick Tape
- c. Large cardboard boxes
- d. Old cloth for the doors
- e. Coloured bin liners for the doors
- f. Old Sheets for the structure
- g. Chairs
- h. Table
- i. Pillows
- j. Scissors
- k. Umbrellas (for roofs)

Decoration for the den outside your building

- a. Markers
- b. Homemade Flags / Sticks for the flags
- c. Coloured bin liners for the flags
- d. Paints
- e. Sponges for the paint to get quick coverage
- f. String

Dens with access to a forest

If you are going to build a den in a nearby forest you might want you take some of the following props:

- a. Old carpet pieces, rugs or mats
- b. Wind breaks
- c. Bamboo poles
- d. Ground sheets
- e. Old tyres
- f. Washing lines
- g. Broom handles/wooden poles
- h. Clothes props

Celebrating the den

- a. Torches
- b. Party food
 - Fruit/Biscuits/Cakes
 - Soft drinks
 - Maybe you can get some of the parents to make some party food or get each child to bring something in
- c. Camera

Building Directions

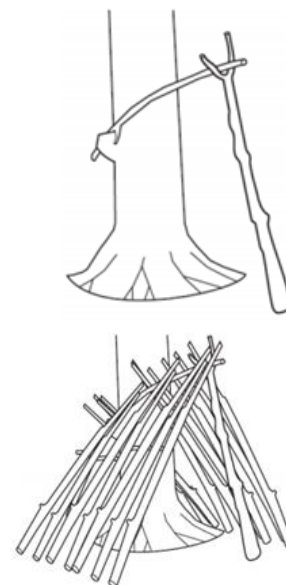
1. Now you have decided where to build your den and what sort of den you want to build. Use the den pictures as a guide...

Close to your building

1. Start with your structure for example, use chairs or big cardboard boxes as the structure
2. Turn boxes sideways so the flaps open out paint the sides cut squares for windows
3. Use sheets as doors or cover for the den
4. Get the children to decorate their dens with paint using sponges for quicker coverage or just use big marker pens for decoration

In a forest

1. Choose a dry flat spot for the most solid den and never build with sharp objects
2. Lay a ground sheet if you have one
3. Start by leaning a couple of large branches which you can wedge together against a low tree branch to make your den's main framework
4. Collect more branches and lay them so they are leaning against your framework
5. Cover your den with leaves and smaller twigs wedged into the gaps
6. Make some flags



Extras Notes

1. Take some pictures of your dens to put on your website or notice board

Leader Speak

For the next activity in your Adventure Challenge Award you are going to build a den. I am going to give you some pictures to give you some ideas on how you can build it. We are going to build it in groups of [you decide]. Once our structure is built you are going to decorate your den exactly how you want. We will come round and help you with the structure.

Example of Dens To Build Close To Your Building



Example of Dens To Build In A Forest

