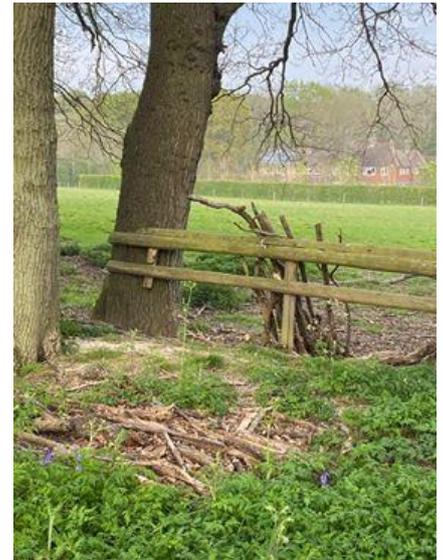


Den Building

A good way to spend some time outdoors is by building a den. This could be done on your own or with the help of others, depending on the size and shape you want to create. It is likely that you could stumble into one that has been built in the woods, to which you can add pieces, or build your own next to it to start creating a small village of dens. If you don't find one on your walk, there's all the more reason to make one yourself! And of course, the more exciting bit of creating a den is trying to get inside it at the end.

Tip 1:

Find something sturdy to use as a base for starting your build. This is often a tree, but you may find some pre-built structure like seen in the picture here. Alternatively, you could use a tree stump, a steep dip or other sharp incline, a bench or a fence. Ensure you choose a safe place to build your structure that won't negatively impact anything and doesn't damage the natural habitat that you are in.



Tip 2:

The easiest and most commonly shaped den uses a triangular structure. It is the easiest way to lean sticks and logs against each other without them falling over. You may find they intertwine with each other to keep the formation you are looking for. This den resembles a tipi, an ancient form of shelter originally used by indigenous people in North America.



Tip 3:

Only use materials that you can find lying around. Don't break any branches off trees or destroy any other parts of nature. Branches that have naturally fallen off and are on the ground are fine, along with loose leaves and twigs.



Tip 4:

Using trees and branches with lots of noobles and nooks to wedge your sticks into each other always helps, as well as using a few trees near each other with space in between for the den.

What else can you do in nature?

On a smaller scale, you could create a bird nest using leaves, twigs, grass and mud perfect for a family. Think about where is best to place it, how big it needs to be and what shape it needs to be. Look around for inspiration - you may just spot a nest made by birds in the trees!