

Build a Fairy House!

Collecting natural objects has always been a favorite pastime of young children. But what can you do with all these pieces of nature? A collection of these treasures – small stones, sticks, leaves, pieces of bark, pine cones, acorns, moss, flowers, etc. can be used to make wonderful *whimsical* fairy houses!

CAREGIVER'S CORNER:

- This creation can be a long-term project for children ages Pre-K through 5th grade. For younger children, treat it as a partner project - encourage them to be the "treasure hunters" and "designers" while you can help them put it together to see their building plans come true!
- This is perfect for Earth Day, keeping in mind the themes of environmental awareness & architecture!
- If you don't have a yard, that's okay! Collect from wherever you can, build it in a box, and set it by a window!



1. **Go into your front or back yard and keep your eyes on the ground - what can you find?** Look out for materials like sticks and bark that would make good building materials, materials like flowers and pebbles that would be great for decorating, and solid pieces like acorns or rocks that could be used as furniture!
2. **Once you've got enough, look for a good spot to build a house.** Think... if you were a fairy, where would YOU want to live? Would you want to be up high or down low? Somewhere sunny or shady?
3. **Unload your materials and grab a bottle of glue.** Try to use as little glue as possible... Instead, how can the materials support each other to stay up?
4. Once your house is built, decorated, and set up for a fairy to move in... **let your imagination take over!** Can you create a fictional story about who lives (or lived) in the house? Where did the fairy come from? Did the fairy live with family or alone? Write and illustrate a biography for your fairy!

SUPPLIES:

- Collected natural objects (leaves, rocks, shells, bark, etc.)
- Glue Bottle
- A quiet spot outdoors, or a box and a window!

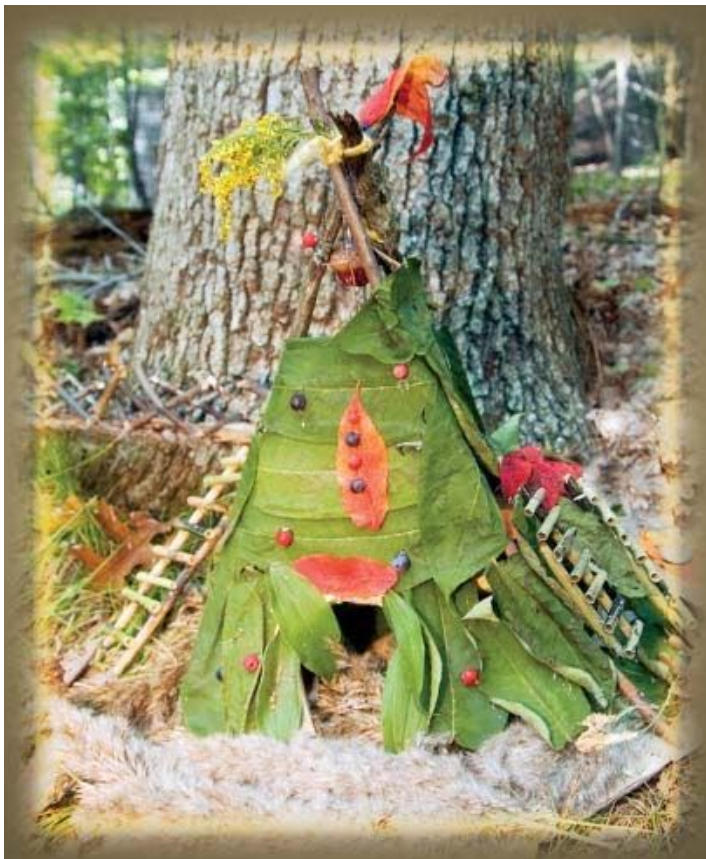
CHALLENGES:

1. Can you make sure your fairy house is composed of only natural objects found outside, with NO man made or manufactured items?
2. How many different types of outdoor objects can you use? Keep track in your notebook!
3. Can you make your fairy house have an upstairs? An attic? How about a basement?

KEEP IT GOING...

Don't forget, you're the fairy's neighbor now! Check that the house is staying up as the season and weather changes. Keep a log of any repairs you have to make, furniture you have to replace, and additions you build!

WCM At Home from the Westchester Children's Museum



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Thank you to Fairy Houses: The Official Website for this great idea & the pictures! <https://www.fairyhouses.com/>