Build a Den

PLAY CARD 01

Curricular Links

HEALTH AND WELLBEING:

Mental, emotional, physical and social wellbeing.
Planning for choices and change.
Physical education, physical activity and sport.

TECHNOLOGIES:

Craft, design, engineering and graphics contexts for developing technological skills and knowledge.

You could...

Split your class into teams or let them choose their own groups.

Run a competition and give awards for the 'strongest', 'tallest', 'most colourful', etc. - each team could get an award.

Suggest a theme, colour or compulsory element.

Encourage 'trading' or 'bargaining' between teams for materials.

Appoint a 'Clerk of Works' to support design developments and suggest improvements or help assess risk.

In dens, kids could...

Read or invent stories.

Play games and sing songs.

Create 'home' style spaces.

The list is endless...!

Collect and compare and swap.

Draw and paint.

Have their snack.

What to use...

Clothes pegs	Bamboo canes	Bin liners
Old carpet	Household items	Cardboard
Blankets	Tape and string	Stones
Tarpaulin	Twigs and sticks	Old curtains

Any other similar materials will do. Let your class get creative!

Back in class, dens can be discussed and evaluated - successes, failures and improvements for the future.

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Obstacle Course

PLAY CARD 03

Active and fun!

Challenge your class to construct this activity using a range of team building and problem solving skills.

Then, encourage physical activity by helping children set a 'personal best' and challenge them to improve upon them.

Get creative with loose parts!

The challenge could be to build the most creative course or the longest. Encourage children to take calculated risk at the same time ensuring obstacles are safe and achievable.

Use tyres, nets, cones, fabrics and cardboard boxes. Put out as many loose parts as possible to increase creativity and choice.

It might be an idea to wear old clothes for this activity!

Links to curricular areas

HEALTH AND WELLBEING:

Mental, emotional, physical and social wellbeing.

Planning for choices and change.

Physical education, physical activity and sport.

TECHNOLOGIES:

Craft, design, engineering and graphics contexts for developing technological skills and knowledge

SCIENCE:

Materials.

Set some criteria to be included in the course - high and low obstacles, angles and tight spaces, things to balance on and things to crawl under or jump over. Take pictures and evaluate designs back in the class-room. Children could draw out their next course design in advance.

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Design a Map

PLAY CARD 04

Curricular Links

SCIENCE:

Developing a curiosity and understanding of the environment.

MATHS:

Developing essential numeracy skills which will allow for full participation in society.

What you can make a map of...

Designing a map of their community will help a child to understand it and the natural environment around them. It will also require problem solving, measuring and attention to detail. Together they may find places they didn't know were there! So why not make maps of:

The playground
The park
The woods
The entire school
The beach
The whole community!

You could use...

Paper, cardboard, greaseproof paper, bird feathers, crayons, pens, charcoal, glue, string, drawing pins, leaves, stones, twigs, pencils, sand...

You could...

- Use old trinkets as buried treasure and make a treasure hunt for the school or community.
- Make clues for people to follow along with the map.
- Add in landmarks and street names.
- Using the map, talk about things in the area and what this means for your community; roads, woods, beaches etc.

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Shoe Box Guitar

PLAY CARD 05

Curricular Links

EXPRESSIVE ARTS:

Recognise and nurture creative and aesthetic talents.

Develop skills and techniques that are relevant to specific art forms and across the four capacities.

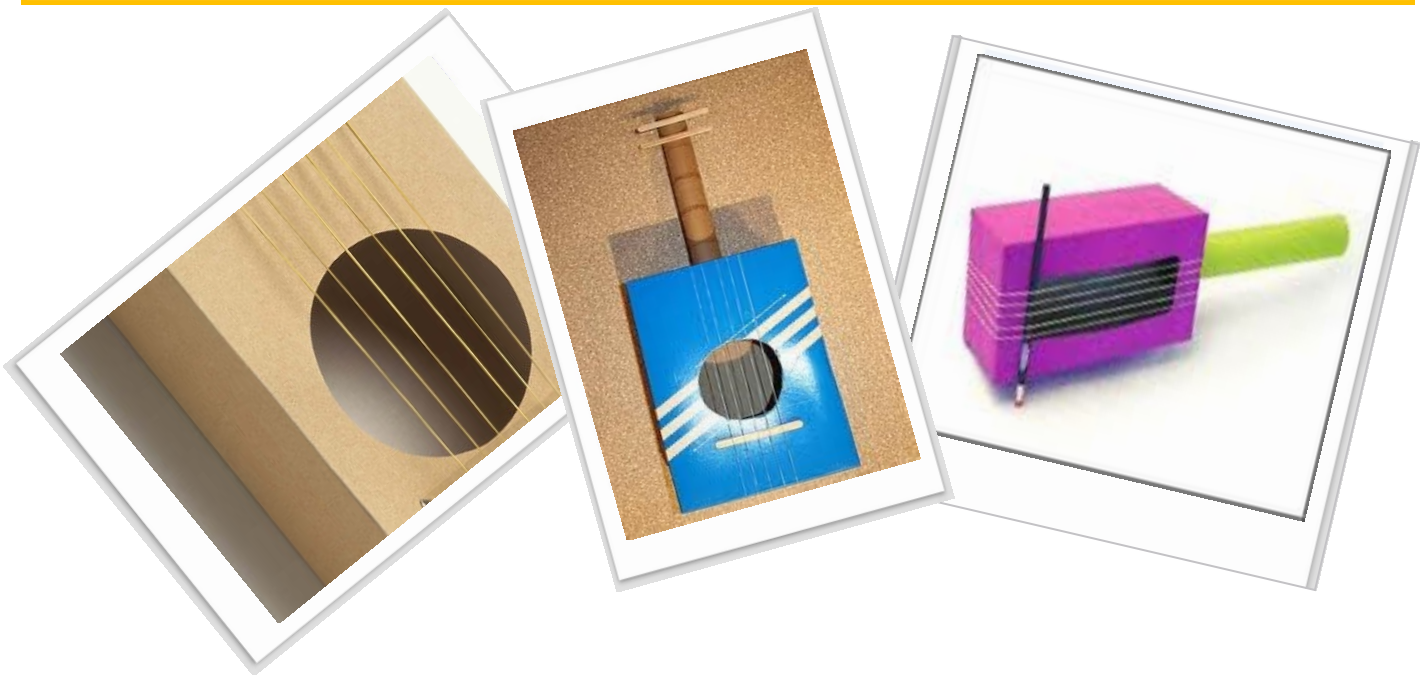
What you need:

- Old shoe box, tissue box or other cardboard box
- Scissors
- A toilet roll or kitchen roll tube
- Pencil

What to do:

- Cut an oval-shaped hole in the top of the box
- Stretch three or four rubber bands around your box that cover the hole.
- On one side, push a pencil under the rubber bands
- Tape on your cardboard tube

Let the children decorate their guitars and once they are finished let them experiment with different sounds and pitched. What happens when they pluck different strings? If they wobble the strings does the sound vibrate? Then see if they can make up any rhythms or tunes!



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play in a pod

Bottle Top Rattle Snake

PLAY CARD 06

Curricular Links

EXPRESSIVE ARTS:

Recognise and nurture creative and aesthetic talents .

MATHEMATICS:

Apply skills and understanding creatively and logically to solve problems.

You will need:

The body of a snake is made by threading bottle tops on to string or cord using:

Metal bottle tops	Strong cord/string
A hammer	A large Nail
A block of wood	Two corks
A craft knife	

What to do

Decide how long your snake will be: the longer the better! This will determine the amount of bottle tops you use.

To make a hole in each bottle top, place the top (face up) on a block of wood. Hold it between your finger and thump, place the nail in the centre and tap it sharply with the hammer to make a hole.

Now carve a head and tail from the corks. Make a hole from the back and out through the mouth. A metal knitting needle or skewer will do the trick. Alternatively make the head and tail from air drying clay. Make a hole in the pieces before they dry.

Thread one end of a length of string through the head shape and out through the mouth tying a knot in the end. Fray the end of the string to create a tongue for the snake.

Now thread the bottle tops onto the string until the desired length is obtained, add the tail, tie a knot and trim off any excess string.

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Small Drums

PLAY CARD 07

Bongo drums...

Carpet tubes are ideal for bongo drums. They are made from dense cardboard and can easily be cut using a hand saw. Most carpet retailers discard them and are usually willing to give them away. Saw a length of carpet tube (the longer the tube the lower the pitch). Use the end of the tube for a pattern and draw a circle onto a piece of cardboard. Cut it out and glue the disk over the end of the tube. Make a shorter drum as above and decorate them with paint. Once dry, glue them together and bind them with wool or string. To play your bongos hold them between your knees and slap the heads with your fingers and thumbs or the palm of your hands.

Curricular Links

EXPRESSIVE ARTS:

Recognise and nurture creative and aesthetic talents. .

Experience the inspiration and power of the arts.

Snares and tom toms...

Using: Old tins/baking tins, balloons, lentils and elastic bands.

First of all, blow up the balloon to stretch it out then let it deflate. Once you have done this a couple of times cut of the thinnest end. Stretch the balloon over the top of your tin and secure it with an elastic band. This should create a small drum similar to a tom tom.

To create the snare sound; place lentils on top of the drum and repeat the same steps with the balloon. The lentils trapped between the two balloons should still have some wiggle room to move. If you tap, brush or shake the drum you should be able to hear the snare effect.

For drum sticks you can use twigs, chopsticks or wooden spoons. Also try out differ things– like your hands or brushes to see how it changes the sound!

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play in a pod

Scavenger Hunt

PLAY CARD 09

Curricular Links

SCIENCE:

Developing a curiosity and understanding of the environment.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Physical wellbeing and teamwork.

Scavenger hunts are...

A great way to explore and begin to understand the natural environment . Scavenger hunts encourage attention to detail, an enthusiasm for nature and lots of running around.

You could...

Keep it simple for younger children by giving them two or three items for them to find at a time.

Older children could try to remember five or six different items– encouraging memory skills as well as exploration!

Items you could find...

Colourful leaves
Berries
Sticks
Pine cones
Feathers
Bark

For scavenger hunts in wooded areas or larger parks, organise children into groups or pairs to keep them safe and encourage a competitive team element to the game. Once all the items have been gathered, encourage everyone to make some 'found object art' from their natural materials!

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Scrap Collage

PLAY CARD 10

Curricular Links

HEALTH AND WELLBEING:

Mental, emotional, physical and social wellbeing.
Planning for choices and change.

ART/TECHNOLOGIES:

Craft, design, engineering and graphics contexts for developing technological skills and knowledge.

Get creative...

Make an enormous outdoor scrap collage using scrap, loose parts, natural materials and even art supplies. Encourage the children to work together to make any picture they like.

You could...

Challenge the children to use everything in a large pile of materials to make one scene.

Or, give them a category such as 'animal', 'vehicle' or 'a day out' and see what they can come up with.

Items you could use

Gutters	Tarpaulin	Cones	Hoops
Tyres	Blanket	Canes	Pipes
String	Paper	Chalk	Boxes
Old clothes	Branches	Paint	...anything!

Set up the collage on concrete and encourage the children to 'fill in' parts of the collage using ground chalks or paper and paint. The children can lie down in amongst their collage to add people to the picture, too!

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