

Bug Hotel Building!

Get ready to welcome some tiny guests! In this hands-on outdoor activity, children will build their very own bug hotels using recycled and natural materials. It's the perfect way to spark curiosity about insects and their habitats, while encouraging creativity and care for nature. A great blend of science, problem-solving, and outdoor fun!

What you need:

- Empty recycled containers (cardboard boxes, plastic bottles cut in half, milk cartons, etc.)
- Toilet paper or paper towel rolls
- Pinecones
- Sticks and twigs
- Dry leaves, bark, or straw
- Scissors (adult supervision if cutting containers)
- Optional: string or tape to secure the structure
- Magnifying glass (for observation after it's built!)



What to do:

1. Prepare the container base by choosing a small, (clear) recycled container as the "frame" of the bug hotel. If needed, cut an opening large enough for materials and bugs to fit inside.
2. Gather Natural Materials - go on a nature walk or backyard scavenger hunt to collect twigs, leaves, pinecones, bark, and other materials bugs might like.
3. Fill the Bug Hotel by placing toilet paper rolls inside the container as little "rooms."
4. Fill the rolls and open spaces with your collected items – pinecones for hiding, leaves for insulation, twigs for crawling.
5. Choose a spot outside to place the bug hotel in a quiet, shady corner of the yard or garden – somewhere slightly damp and undisturbed is ideal.
6. Observe and Explore - encourage children to check on their hotel daily with a magnifying glass. What bugs move in? What changes do they notice?

Optional activity extensions:

- Let the children name their hotel and create a little sign!
- Draw pictures from their observations of the bugs they find
- Turn this into a mini science lesson about insects, habitats, pollinators or decomposition

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