



# Nature Play: Fairy Houses

## Making Fairy House with Children

There are all kinds of Fairy Houses and lots of great ideas to design, build, and decorate miniature houses of all kinds. The ones best suited to fairies (and other creatures) who live outdoors, are those made from materials found in the local natural environment. Collecting natural materials and then building tiny structures can encourage children's curiosity, imagination, and appreciation for nature. Remind everyone that the natural house will (and should) fall apart over time. This gives you a great opportunity to build a new one.

**Motivating Questions:** What do you want your fairy house to look like? What materials will you need? How can you gather materials while being respectful of living plants (don't pick or break plants to make your fairy home)? Who do you think might visit? How would they use it?

**NOTE for Grownups:** it is fun to do these activities with your children, but remember when they (not you) lead the activity they learn problem-solving skills and gain confidence.

**Materials:** Natural materials collected from your yard or a walk through your neighborhood (sticks, leaves, pinecones and other seed pods, tree bark, shells, etc.). A quiet place to build.

### Directions

1. The one rule of creating a Fairy House is to not kill anything in the process. A second guiding principle is that fairies like natural materials best.
2. Gather your materials. These can be natural materials such as sticks, leaves, pinecones and other seed pods, tree bark, shells, etc. Consider going on a nature walk and collecting materials together.
3. Find a good spot for your fairy house. This can be at the base of a tree, a hole in a tree, between a couple of bushes, at the base of a wall, etc.
4. Think about what fairies would like in a tiny house. Your house can be as simple or complex as you want to make it. Do you want a floor? If so, what will you make it out of? Does it need to be flat? What about walls? What will you make the walls out of? You can weave them, lean them, tie them together with grass, etc. Will you add a roof? How? Will you make furniture for your house? Do you build your house around it, or put it in later?
5. Start building! Take pictures to document your achievements.

### Online resources for water painting with children

[www.islandinstitute.org/working-waterfront/imagination-creativity-kindled-fairy-houses](http://www.islandinstitute.org/working-waterfront/imagination-creativity-kindled-fairy-houses)

<http://www.sturdyforcommonthings.com/2016/05/building-natural-fairy-houses/>

<https://featheredneststudio.com/tutorials/tutorial-fairy-garden-house/>

<https://insteadof.com/blog/fairy-houses/>

[www.homegardencompanion.com/grandma-can-make-fairy-houses-from-forest-finds/](http://www.homegardencompanion.com/grandma-can-make-fairy-houses-from-forest-finds/)



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## Fairy House Examples from the Web:

