



DEN BUILDING

Safety Guide

Forest Schools

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Checklist Items

KEY BENEFITS

Creativity

Stimulates imagination as children design and build their own dens.

Collaboration

Promotes teamwork and negotiation when working in small groups.

Resilience

Encourages adaptability as children problem-solve structural flaws.

Physical Development

Develops physical literacy through crawling, lifting, and balancing.

KEY HAZARDS & CONTROL MEASURES**Structural Collapse**

- ✓ Build dens low to ground
- ✓ Adult supervision during construction
- ✓ Check stability before use
- ✓ Teach safe building techniques

Falling Branches

- ✓ Check canopy before activity
- ✓ Site check after high winds
- ✓ Avoid building under dead wood
- ✓ Defined safe building zones

Rope Entanglement

- ✓ Teach safe rope handling
- ✓ Supervise rope use closely
- ✓ Avoid loops at neck height
- ✓ Mark guy ropes clearly

Heavy Materials

- ✓ Teach proper lifting technique
- ✓ Use appropriately sized materials
- ✓ Work in pairs for heavy items
- ✓ Clear carrying routes



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