



Building a Hedgehog house

Suits ages 36 – 60 months



What you will need:

- A cardboard box measuring 30x30x45cm
- A 30cm pipe with a diameter of 10-14cm, for a tunnel entrance (can be a wide plastic bottle)
- Waterproof material such as tarpaulin or bin liner
- Dry leaves, twigs, straw or grass
- Shredded newspaper
- Non-toxic paint
- Scissors
- Non-toxic glue

What you do:

1. Help your child to cut a hole in the box for the entrance, this needs to be 10-15cm wide.
2. Carefully cut the bottom and top off the recycled bottle to create a tunnel for the hedgehogs. Feed this through the doorway and leave it sticking out about 15cm in front of the hedgehog house.
3. Add air vents into the house so the hedgehogs can breathe. Help your child cut out a few squares near the top of the front and sides of the house.
4. Support your child in decorating the hedgehog house with natural colours to help it blend into the surroundings. Add any finishing touches to the house to make it look like home for the hedgehogs and let this dry.
5. Cover the top, back and sides of the house with a bin liner or tarpaulin to keep it dry (make sure you keep the air vents on the sides of the house free).
6. Help your child to cover the top of the house with leaves and twigs with non-toxic glue to help blend it into the surrounding environment still (ensure the air holes are not blocked).
7. Let your child place some shredded newspaper and leaves inside of the hedgehog house.
8. Place this in your garden, in a sheltered place if possible and wait for the hedgehogs to arrive. (This may take some time; they are nocturnal and very shy).
9. Talk about the importance of looking after animals such as hedgehogs and how by building a house for them you are helping to protect them by making sure they have a dry place to live during winter.

This is the perfect activity to support children with their development in understanding the world, personal, social and emotional and expressive arts and design.