

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Activity: Houses and homes

Encourage children's awareness of their community and local wildlife by looking at the range of homes and houses in your local area.

Learning aims

- Show curiosity
- Talk about their own experiences and interests
- Notice and talk about similarities and differences
- Work with others to achieve a goal.

Resources

- Camera (optional)
- Pictures of houses and homes in your local community
- Pictures of a range of different types of homes e.g. canal boats, lighthouse etc.
- Images of homes the local wildlife create
- Small/large scale resources to aid home building.



Activity outline

1. Prior to the activity, take photos of different types of houses in your local community.
2. Share the images of the houses/homes that you have photographed in your local area. Ask children what they notice about the homes (size, shape, height, design features. Point out things they all have e.g. windows, post box.
3. Invite children to talk about their own homes or homes of family and friends that they visit. Ask about their favourite things about their home.
4. Show children images of the local wildlife and their homes, for example, bees and a beehive, rabbits/badgers/foxes live underground, birds and a nest home for their new babies, with examples of different types of nests. Talk about the need for a place that provides shelter and look at the different materials that the homes are made from and the similarities and differences between the homes.
5. Explain that you have some resources for children to build a home, either for people or an animal, encourage children to work together to create a home. Offer children opportunities to select further resources from within your provision.

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6. Provide some animals/people as occupants for the newly created homes
7. Invite the children to talk through their home design
8. Offer the camera to children to record their creative designs.

Extension ideas:

- Visit the library to choose a range of books about homes, construction and houses around the world, for children to explore in more detail.

NDNA products to support you with this activity:

- Online course – [Making Maths Matter](#)