

EYFS OUTSIDE LEARNING PROJECT FACT SHEET

ROLE PLAY OUTSIDE (3 – 5 age range)



Photograph courtesy of James Lee Nursery School, Part of the Thames Federation

Key activities:

- Open-ended resources that can 'stand in the place of' other things, e.g., a wooden brick can be a mobile phone, a long wooden slate a 'plane propeller'
- Open-ended conversations between children and adult to child(ren)
- Planned outside role play areas and dens
- Spontaneous role play areas based on children's immediate interests

Suggested learning and development links:

- Start a conversation with an adult or friend and continue it for many turns.
- Use talk to organize themselves and their play.
- Take part in simple pretend play.
- Begin to develop complex stories.
- Take part in simple pretend play, using an object to represent something else even though they are not similar.
- Learn and use new vocabulary.
- Describe events in some detail.
- Use talk to help work out problems and organize thinking and activities.
- Develop storylines in their pretend play.

(Taken from the new Development Matters (Non-statutory curriculum guidance for the EYFS 2020))

Characteristics of effective teaching and learning:

- Make independent choices.
- Take part in pretend play beyond the here and now and to understand another perspective.

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Books:

The building Boy by Montgomery and Litchfield
Everything you need for a Treehouse by Higgins and Hughes
Let's Build a House by M Manning
If I built a House by Chris Van Dusen
Stick Man by Julia Donaldson
On Sudden Jill by L Sarah
Ruby's Sword by J Veissid
Stanley's Stick by Hegley and Leyton
This is our house by Michael Rosen

Useful websites:**RHS Back to Nature – Den building:**

<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/getmedia/0c854590-4402-4ef5-b4ff-70358fb638db/Res-I-BTN-RHS-Garden-Activity-Card-Den-Building>

Encouraging role play outside:

<https://www.teachearlyyears.com/learning-and-development/view/encouraging-role-play-outdoors>

Den Play activities and Den Building Ideas:

<https://www.earlyyearsresources.co.uk/blog/2018/06/top-den-building-play-activities/>

Using den play to support development in the early years:

<https://www.teachearlyyears.com/enabling-environments/view/using-den-play-to-support-development>

Setting their own scene – child led role play areas:

<https://www.earlyyearseducator.co.uk/features/article/setting-their-own-scene>

Den Building (deconstructing role play):

<https://eyfsmatters.wordpress.com/category/den-building-2/>

Videos:

Making a den – forest schools:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8lkpoD7hTE>

The builder's yard:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_mwqo7UMEA

Local community provision:

The local park

Fulham Palace – themed activities:

<https://www.fulhampalace.org/learning/schools/>

Forest school training:

<http://www.vanessanurseryschool.org.uk/forest-school/>

Creating a magical outside area where role play is possible anywhere



Photograph courtesy of Masbro Family Centre, Brook Green

Creating an outside home corner for two-year-olds



Photograph courtesy of the pre-school, Bayonne Nursery School, part of the Thames Federation