

Kids Explore!



Make A Gnome Home or a Fairy House

Use natural and recycled materials to create a fanciful habitat for forest friends. You can bring the *outside in* when you can't go out in real life!



Materials

◆ A large shoe box or other similar-sized box or container

◆ Pebbles, shells, dried flowers, grasses, ferns, moss, lichen, cones, nuts, small twigs, etc.

◆ Colorful glass gems, beads, ribbons, yarn, fabric scraps, pretty paper

◆ Craft glue or a glue gun (optional)

Adult help may be needed on steps with ⇒.

1. Gather a collection of interesting natural items that are small enough to fit in your container. Make sure

you don't take the last of something in nature or collect things in a place where it is not okay to take things home. If you can't go outside, check at home — most people have some pretty rocks or shells collected!

2. Now find some things in your recycling or trash, or other collections you have at home, to add to your building materials. Do you have leftover ribbons from holidays? Small pieces of wood? Colorful lids from milk cartons or jars? Scraps of fabric or pretty paper? A collection of marbles or glass gems?

3. Arrange your objects in your container. Try

creating a spiral out of pebbles or a nest of soft grasses and moss. Build mini-furniture out of sticks and stones and recyclables.

⇒ 4. Optional: Once you have arranged things, glue them down if you don't want them to move around. For heavier objects like rocks, you may need a glue gun or craft glue.

5. Invite gnomes and fairies in to play! Use little toys you have already, or make critters out of the materials you have collected.

6. Be sure to also try this outside in nature the next time you're on an outdoor adventure. Have fun!