

## Outdoor play

# Under canvas

Children love playing in tents, so make the most of this stimulating experience to explore and create your own tents outdoors

### Let's go camping

**Stepping Stone:** engage in imaginative and role-play based on own first-hand experiences (CD).

**Early Learning Goal:** use their imagination in role-play and stories (CD).

**Group size:** four children.

### What you need

Two pop-up tents; small rucksacks; sleeping bags; picnic items such as food and flasks of cold drinks for four children; large items of nightwear; torches; large rucksack; camping holiday brochures; catalogues showing camping gear.

### What to do

- Check for any food allergies and dietary requirements.
- Discuss the children's experiences of tents and look at pictures in the catalogues and brochures.
- Talk about how tents become homes for a short while when families go on holiday. Pretend to go on a camping holiday.
- Talk about items that might be needed for an overnight stay in a tent and gather them together on a clear floor space.
- Ask each child to pack a rucksack with overnight clothes and roll up a sleeping bag. Pack the large rucksack with the food, drink and torches.

- Invite each child to carry a packed rucksack and rolled sleeping bag while you carry the large rucksack and tents.
- Go outside and choose somewhere to set up camp. Have fun putting on nightwear over clothes, eating the picnic, singing songs and settling down in sleeping bags in the tents.

### Support and extension

Set up the camp beforehand for younger children and sit in tents for a picnic. Let older children build their own tents from planks, boxes and blankets.

### Home links

- Suggest that parents make a tent from a clothes horse and blanket for their children to play in outdoors.



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### Tepee homes

**Stepping Stone:** gain an awareness of the cultures and beliefs of others (KUW).

**Early Learning Goal:** begin to know about their own cultures and beliefs and those of other people (KUW).

**Group size:** four children.

### What you need

Six thick garden canes; wide masking tape; white sheet; paint; resources chosen by the children from home corner; pictures of tepees.

### What to do

- Talk about North American Indian tepees and look at the pictures of them. Explain that the North American Indians make their homes in tepees.

- Compare the tepees with other tents.
- Create a tepee outdoors. Fasten the garden canes together at one end with masking tape and pull them outwards at the bottom to form the frame.
- Ask the children to paint pictures and patterns on a large sheet.
- Cut a hole in the sheet, push it over the canes and let it fall around the frame. Cut a slit for a door and tuck the bottom under the canes.
- Let the children pretend to be North American Indians and choose what to put in the tepee.
- Have fun playing freely in the tepee.

### Support and extension

Create the tepee beforehand for younger children. Show older children how to use a small blanket to make a papoose in which they can carry a doll.

### Further ideas

- Find pictures of other tents such as circus tents and marquees, and discuss events that take place inside them.
- Organise a campsite outdoors for dolls using smaller garden canes and lengths of fabric to create the tents.

Jean Evans is an early years consultant and author