



Paddington Station Preschool

Outdoor Learning Opportunity: The Magic of Fairy Gardens

Key Learning Skills: Hand-eye coordination, imagination, creativity, socio-dramatic play, problem solving, language, cooperation, literacy, art

Suggested Materials: Any piece of nature - use your imagination! Pebbles, rocks, bark, leaves, clay, seed pods, tree cookies, pine cones, moss, tree stumps, bird cages, doll pins, traditional clothespins, fabric

Resources: The book, "Backyard Fairies" by Phoebe Wahl

- (If you do not own this book, you can also find this story being read by Ms. Ashley on the "Squirrel Nutkin Tuesday/Thursday" blog or check on youtube)

Directions:

- Set a space for the fairy garden - can be sets of trays, stumps, grassy spot, or areas with natural provocation. You are not limited to natural materials - you can even include fabric, cotton balls, large beads, q-tips, and non-natural materials.
- Listen to the book, 'Backyard Fairies' or any other fairy/troll related story
- Support and encourage children to discuss what might be needed or wanted in a fairy garden - can write down the ideas of children to help them recollect ideas and work together
- Get creative, collect new materials, and start building! You can even make a fairy village in a designated area of your yard

Take a picture of your fairy house and email it to Ashley@paddingtonstation.org - we might feature your house in an upcoming All Aboard!

Helpful Hints: if kids are having a hard time creating the fairy house, jump in and model the creation of homes. Can take photos of the fairy houses and post them inside for future inspiration.

Ideas to take the activity even further::

- Create writing prompts based on fairy houses. "In my fairy house I built a _____"
- Take pictures of fairy houses and have children use the photo as reference while drawing blueprints with crayons or markers
- Count the items used in fairy houses. Make a graph of items
- Make fairies to put into the fairy house
- Discuss what fairies might "need" in a house. Compare/contrast to our homes (you can

even make a venn-diagram)

- If you have more than one child, make a fairy house competition! Create various fairy houses (adults can assist) and rank them based on various characteristics
- Discuss the difference between “alive” and “not alive”. Use this lesson as an opportunity to talk about taking care to leave live plants and grasses to grow
- Make a special “fairy” snack in the kitchen
- Make a fairy house out of blocks or legos - talk about the differences
- Leave a fun treasure for the fairies - and see if a “fairy” leaves one in return!