

How to create a Fairy Garden

This is an activity that explores creativity and encourages the handling of plants. It will stimulate conversation and increase physical activity (large and small motor skills and hand-eye co-ordination) of participants.

The fun is in the making! The end product will last a few days and can be refreshed weekly over a month in the growing season.

What you will need:

- Deep tray A4 size e.g. mushroom tray
- Any compost; 5 litres should be plenty
- A selection of greenery and flowers, miniature scale
- Decorative white stones or flat small beach pebbles; a margarine tub full for 5 clients.
- Milk or juice bottle caps or limpet shells
- Clear yoghurt pots -1 per client
- Twigs, cut into 4 and 2cm lengths; a margarine tub full is enough for 10
- Accessories - shell selection; driftwood scraps; butterfly confetti
- Tools - spoons; trowels; black felt tips; scissors; seed trays; saucers

NB Do not eat any of the flowers, seeds or plants you collect to create your garden and wash your hands after the activity.



Step 1: Collecting plant material

An activity in its own right – collect material that can be stored in buckets of water overnight to prevent wilting. If possible, involve clients in this activity as this stimulates conversation. Collect plenty so that there is enough and there is choice. Collect stiffer stuff that is less likely to wilt. Material can be 30-45cm long – it will be cut down to fairy size.

Think small scale:

What will make a 'fairy hedge' - snippets of conifer; heather; cotoneaster.....

What will make a 'fairy lawn'? – medium sized flat green leaves e.g. Ivy

What about 'fairy flowers'? – anything with small flowers!

Fairy vegetables! Foxglove seeds make good cabbages; broom seed

How to create a Fairy Garden continued

Step 2: Building the garden base

Fill the mushroom tray with compost to within 1cm of the top lip, using the trowel. Gently press down the compost with the back of the hand or another tray.

Add a garden path using the decorative white stones (easily seen) to make a gravel path, or small flat pebbles to make stepping stones.



Step 3: Making a fairy house

Using the yoghurt pot, draw on windows, door, chimney, cat etc on the yoghurt pot.

Place at one end of the path.



Step 4: Position the pond

Use the bottle top or upside down limpet shell to create a pond.

Don't forget to fill it with water!



Step 5: Add plants

Add snippets of plants to create hedges, lawns, flower borders, vegetable patches. These can be renewed weekly to replace any that wilt. However pushing them well into the compost will usually allow them to keep going for a week or so. Think 'miniature' to

Photograph the end product to send to friends and relatives or to display on the activity board.

Step 6: Accessorise

Make a seat or bench from a clam shell or driftwood

A tripod of twigs makes a Sweet Pea arbour.

Solar lights can be made from poppy seed heads.
Foxglove seeds look like cabbages in the veg. patch;
beech mast looks like snozzcumbers.

Twigs can be stacked to make a log pile/bug hotel.

A tiny leaf makes a lily pad in the pond.

Explore your imagination!

Butterfly confetti adds that fairy sparkle.



The garden will last longer in a cool place out of direct sunlight. Water sparingly as there are no drainage holes.