



Stick Skeleton

Outdoor Activity

You will need:

Picture of a Skeleton

Sticks and twigs of various lengths and thicknesses

Smaller objects such as pebbles, conkers, acorns, flowers and leaves

Other natural materials that could be used for parts of the skeleton
(eg offcut of a log for the skull)

The Activity

1. Show the children the picture of the skeleton and talk to them about the function of the skeleton in the human body. It gives our body shape, protects our organs and helps us to move around.
2. Explain that today we are going to make a skeleton using natural materials that we can find in the outdoor area.
3. Talk about the type of objects we might be able to find and how we could use them in our skeleton.
4. Send the children off to gather a variety of natural materials.
5. Gather the children together and look at the materials they have found. Think about how these materials could be used to make a skull. For example, the children may decide to make a skull shaped outline using smaller twigs or use a rounded object such as a rock or log offcut.
6. Place the chosen object(s) at the top of the space where you are going to lay your skeleton.
7. Ask the children which of their materials they think they could add for the nose, eyes and teeth. Place them on the 'skull'.
8. Talk to the children about the part of the body which joins on to the head. Look at the picture of the skeleton to identify what these bones look like. Again ask the group to decide which of their materials they could use to make this part of the skeleton. When the group have decided place them underneath the skull.
9. Continue this, adding objects to represent the different parts of the skeleton until the children have constructed a complete skeleton on the ground using their gathered materials.