



Wildwood Days ~ Bush-craft activities

Bush-craft & survival activities are fantastic for all ages and can be done at any time of year. If there's something you particularly want to try that's not listed then please ask. As many of the tool use activities require 1:2:1 supervision you may only choose only 1 of the starred activities for half a day, or 2 in a whole day.

Camouflage game – a great activity to start with. We help the group to prepare some natural 'paint' (mud, chalk and charcoal) with the pestle and mortar. They then design and apply their own camouflage face paints before going to hide themselves around the site. They can cover themselves in leaves, hide behind a pile of sticks and so on. The last person to be found is the winner!

Den building – a staple part of any bush-craft day. Den building is a great group activity. We have a special den building area with lots of materials available to create your own hide-away. For older children we can also provide tarpaulins and teach some knots as part of the activity.



***Fire lighting** – After a fire-lighting demonstration every child is given the opportunity to try out the fire steel for themselves to see if they can make a spark. Depending on age and ability they can try to set a piece of cotton wool alight. This is done under 1:2:1 supervision.

***Whittle a stick** – each child can whittle their own marshmallow toasting stick using a bush craft knife. Again, this is done under 1:2:1 supervision in a safe tool-use area.

Survival game – Each group is given a sheet of items, from which they can choose 5 things that they think will be most useful in helping them to survive in the wild. This is a good group discussion activity to get them thinking about survival skills.

***Bow and arrow making** – Each child gets to make their own bow and arrow (making a notch cut in the wood with a bush-craft knife and stringing the bow, then tying a feather to the end of their arrow). We then provide some targets to they can practice shooting their arrows. The knife use is done under 1:2:1 supervision. Recommended for age 7 and up.

***Campfire cooking challenge** – In small groups the children have to work together to collect sticks for the fire and to cook a simple meal e.g. toasting bread/crumpets and cooking an egg or heating beans.

***Tree cookies** – we help the children to saw a thin slice of wood off a branch and drill a hole through the top (using a bow saw, then a palm drill or hand drill). They can then decorate the slice with pens and hang it on a string to create a medallion.

