

# How To Build A Fairy House

source: Tracy Kane, [www.fairyhouses.com](http://www.fairyhouses.com)

Building Fairy Houses is a wonderful outdoor activity for families to do in their backyards, in parks or on the beach. Schools, early childhood programs and youth programs can create these special habitats for fairies on their sites or in nearby open areas. Once built, wait and watch who visits: it could be grasshoppers, squirrels, frogs, birds or crickets. A few days later, revisit the fairy house to see who else may have visited. The wind and elements will have moved some of the structure, but to children – it must have been the fairies. Children learn to observe, be patient, and then see a wonderful world that is there every day if you take the time to look.

The sheer fun of observing these special and friendly visitors to the Fairy House conveys the magic of nature's daily wonders.

It's time to turn off the TV and video games, head outside and see imagination and creativity at play. Building Fairy Houses is a unique and very special activity that can be shared with friends, siblings, parents, grandparents, and teachers. It is a clever way to excite children to explore the natural world, bring families together and create a sense of community.

Have fun building Fairy Houses everywhere, in every season, and enjoy all the special visitors!

## Fairies' Rules

1. Fairy Houses should look so natural they are almost hidden.
2. Find a quiet place away from roads or busy pathways. The base of a tree or the side of a rock could be just right. Close to the ground is usually best. Sometimes you may find a special place in low branches of a tree or bush.
3. A triangle or teepee shape makes it easier to construct a fairy house for first-time builders.
4. Use only natural materials to build a Fairy House: dry grasses, leaves, sticks, bark, pebbles, pinecones, branches, stones, acorns, feathers, seaweed, nuts. Acorn caps and small shells make nice fairy dishes. Dried milkweed pods with fluffy seeds make lovely soft fairy beds. A large shell filled with water can become a fairy bathtub.
5. Use the materials you find in the space where you want to build. A Fairy House at the beach will look different than the one built in the backyard.
6. Make a path leading to the front door – to guide the fairies into the house.
7. Be careful not to use or disturb any of nature's materials that are still living, especially flowers, ferns, mosses and lichen.
8. When done, ask the children to say a few words about their creations. They can also write about their fairy house or draw a picture about it.
9. Invite the children to visit their fairy Houses dressed as fairies, butterflies or dragonflies.
10. Don't forget the camera because there will be many precious pictures to capture!

