

25 Ways to Play with Sticks

Activity	What to do	Curriculum links
Make a campfire	Can you collect sticks to help an adult crate a camp fire? Maybe you could collect small ones and make a pretend campfire for a teddy bear?	Personal, Social and Emotional Development Physical Development Understanding the World
Play pooh sticks	If on your walk you come across a bridge over a flowing river or stream can you play pooh sticks? All throw your sticks in at the same time, on the side of the bridge where the water is flowing away from you, run to the other side and see whose stick comes through first. Whose stick went the fastest?	Communication and Language Physical Development Understanding the World
Decorate them	Can you use paint, glue and glitter or pipe cleaners to decorate your stick?	Communication and Language Physical Development Expressive Arts and Design
Use to make marks in mud	Can you use your stick to make marks in the mud? Can you write your name in the mud? Can you record numbers, shapes and other marks in the mud?	Physical Development Literacy
Use to paint with	Can you use your stick as a paintbrush and paint with it? What could you paint? Can you mix colours with your stick? Can you find natural items as the tip of your paintbrush? E.g. leaves, dandelions, feathers. Tie your chosen natural material to the end of the stick and paint away!	Physical Development Expressive Arts and Design
Make a stick picture frame	Can you use 4 sticks bound together to create a picture frame? Each corner will need a knot tying between 2 sticks to make the frame.	Physical Development Expressive Arts and Design Understanding the World
Make a dream catcher	Can you find 2 sticks you could use to make a dream catcher with? Using wool can you thread under and over the joined sticks? Where will you hang your dream catcher once it's finished?	Physical Development Expressive Arts and Design
Make a bow and arrow	To make this you will need a flexible stick for the bow and a shorter, straight stick for the arrow. Start by making the bow by securely tying some wool to one end, bending the stick into an arc and tying the string at the other end. You can decorate your stick with feathers, wool and tape. How far can you shoot your arrow?	Physical Development Expressive Arts and Design
Make a flag	Can you make a triangle out of a piece of paper? Decorate it and attach it to a stick with masking tape. What design did you put on your flag?	Physical Development Expressive Arts and Design Understanding the World
Make a stick man	In the Julia Donaldson book Stickman the characters are sticks. Can you find sticks to create your own stickman? Maybe use wool or string to bind the sticks together.	Physical Development Literacy Expressive Arts and Design
Make a stick family	Can you find sticks of different sizes to make a family for the stickman?	Physical Development Literacy Expressive Arts and Design
Make a wand	Can you make your own wand? You could tie flowers and leaves to the stick, or you could add ribbons, beads and pipe cleaners.	Physical Development Expressive Arts and Design

Make a bug hotel	Can you collect a variety of different sticks? Thread a length of string through an empty kitchen roll tube and tie the ends together to make a loop. Then fill the tube with sticks you have collected. Hang it somewhere you can observe over the next few days. What bugs do you see?	Physical Development Understanding the World
Make a picture on the floor	Can you use sticks and natural objects to make a picture on the floor? E.g. a person, pine cones for eyes, leaves for eyebrows, conker for a nose and flowers for a mouth? What could you use for the body?	Physical Development Expressive Arts and Design
Air writing	Use your stick as an air pencil. What patterns, shapes and letters can you make?	Communication and Language Physical Development
Singing	Can you find a stick that would be good as a microphone? Can you use the stick to sing your favourite song or rhyme to a sibling or an adult?	Physical Development Expressive Arts and Design
Make a journey stick	When walking outdoors can you collect a variety of natural things that you come across? E.g. Leaves, feathers, wildflowers. Using tape stick these things to the stick as a reminder of the things you came across. You could use wool to tie things to your journey stick.	Communication and Language Physical Development
Make a twig tower	Can you ask a sibling or an adult to lie on the ground and see how many sticks it takes to make a circle around their body? How many sticks did it take? Can they do the same to you? How many sticks did your body measure?	Physical Development Mathematics Expressive Arts and Design
Make a stick ribbon streamer	Using one of your decorated sticks can you tie a ribbon to the end and use it as a streamer? What shapes in the air can you make with your ribbon streamer?	Physical Development Expressive Arts and Design
Build a home for wildlife	Choose lots of twigs, add some grass and other dead material from the ground such as leaves. Try to build your hotel in a tucked away spot where it will be safe and won't be trampled upon.	Communication and Language Physical Development Understanding the World
Make a wind chime	Using your decorated sticks can you tie them onto a larger twig to create a wind chime? Where will you put your wind chime?	Communication and Language Physical Development Understanding the World
Make a pair of drum sticks	Can you find some sticks that you could use as drum sticks? Can you find a log to beat your drum sticks on to make different sounds? What else could you use outdoors as a drum to beat your sticks?	Physical Development Expressive Arts and Design
Whittle a stick	With an adult can you whittle the end of a stick using a vegetable peeler? If you have a camp fire you could use your whittled stick to toast a marshmallow or toast a piece of bread!	Communication and Language Physical Development
Balance a stick	Can you balance a stick for as long as you can on one foot? How long did you balance it for? Can a sibling or adult do the same? How long could they balance for?	Physical Development Mathematics
Have fun!	Sticks are the best. There are so many ways you can have fun with sticks that we can't list them all here. Please see the additional links below for more fantastic stick activities.	Physical Development

Additional activities can be accessed at:

The Stick Man story accessible at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PZDWJ-I5Lk>

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/fun-things-to-do-with-a-humble-stick>

[http://www.beactivekids.org/assets/pdf/101 Stick NCCAN.pdf](http://www.beactivekids.org/assets/pdf/101%20Stick%20NCCAN.pdf)