

Stick people

Familiar stories provide opportunities for children to understand the natural world. This activity will spark children's imagination and creativity by bringing alive the story 'Stickman' by Julia Donaldson. Children will learn to care for their environment by learning never to break branches from a living tree.

This activity is suitable for Autumn, Winter or Spring when there will be plenty of sticks available. The story is particularly appropriate in the run up to Christmas.

Resources

- 'Stickman' by Julia Donaldson
- Wool and scissors
- Sticks, leaves, moss etc.
- Tarpaulin, blankets and cushions
- Camera

Activity

Children will need to be familiar with the story before the visit.

Collect sticks from the floor of the wood.
Explain to children that they should only collect dead wood – never break branches from trees.

Children can make their own stick people using other natural materials such as leaves and use wool to hold it all together.

Then children can make their own stories as they play with their stick people. Take photos of the stick people in-situ in the nature reserve to refer to back at school.

The session might end with a reading of the story either in the nature reserve or in the village hall. Further ideas for things to do with sticks can be found in 'The Stick Book' by Jo Schofield and Fiona Danks.

Follow up

- The children can continue to play with their stick people back at school. They can be encouraged to tell their own stories as they play. Children might write their own stories using folded A4 paper booklets. See how at www.shininghours.com/creating/one_sheet_8_pages!.htm This is a great way to get children writing their own stories, using emergent writing in the early years.
- 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson would be an alternative story to use as the basis for an activity in the nature reserve.



Visit CVCg.org.uk for more activity sheets and information about our nature reserve

