

Making a Mini Den



First things first: You need to decide who your mini den character is going to be.

Is it the little bunny rabbit you have just drawn?

A fairy only you can see, or a nutcracker from the Christmas tree?

Is it the origami swan you made?

Or a family of paper chain people?

Will it be your favourite lego figure?

Or number one cuddly toy?

A pebble animal in the garden?

Or a real animal like a hedgehog or frog?



**Third: Who do they need protection from?
Who are their predators or enemies?**

Where does your den need to be located to provide protection for your mini den character?

Is the predator a fox, which can't climb or fly,
so a nest up high would keep your character safe?

Or are the predators some of the people you live with perhaps, so you need
to make sure the den is really camouflaged and hidden, so they can't find it?

Is it an evil wizard who can't go into the dark?

Or a wicked witch who melts if they are touched by water, so a moat would provide protection?

Good
luck!



Second: You need to know the story and background of your character, to design their home.

How will your character need to get into their den?

Do they hop, walk, fly, slither or swim?

Will they want their den to be:

warm or cold?

wet or dry?

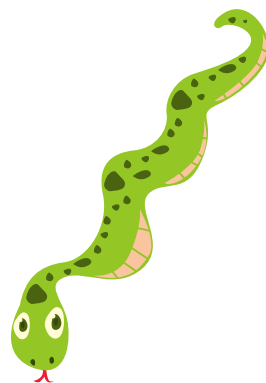
big or small?

comfy or basic?

flat or on a slope?

dark or light?

breezy or sheltered?



What does your home need to provide - do they need to be near to their food and water sources? Where would those be?





Fourth: What building materials can you gather together from your house and garden to build your mini den with?

Can you use any existing materials to give your mini den strength, like rest it up against a tree or a table leg?

What can you make a good framework from?

Things like wooden sticks and twigs, pencils, cutlery, drumsticks or chopsticks might work well.



Then what can be used to bind your framework together and strengthen it?
Maybe string or pipe cleaners?
Elastic bands or hair bobbles?



What else could you use to give your den added protection, and keep your character safe and hidden from harm?

Paper, card, books, toilet rolls, leaves, grass, pebbles...



**Finally, it's time to introduce your character to their mini den!
What do they think, are they going to be safe and feel at home inside?**

You can do it!



Fifth: Now your den is all set up, is there anything you can do to give it a grand design makeover? Add a little luxury? Or hidden design features?

Imagine this were your den, and you had to live in it...

Would you maybe like something soft underneath your feet so that your toes wouldn't get cold on the ground?
What could you make something soft for the floor from?



Or perhaps you might like somewhere to rest your tired body when you're home, what could you make to help with this?

Perhaps you might want somewhere to eat your meals, or play some games?

If you were inside your den and you heard noises outside, what would be helpful?

Maybe you would want some inside space as well as some outside space?

Would you like to be able to look out from your den and see who's approaching?

Or a second exit might be helpful, in case you need to make a sneaky escape?