

Natural Construction



▲ Natural construction can be small, like this “fairy house.”



▲ A permanent “armature” of connected poles with logs, ready for additions.

Natural construction offers children natural and manufactured materials such as logs, branches, rope, and bamboo for building forts or other “creations” large and small. These materials can provide hours of engrossing activity for long play sequences, day after day. Imagination is the only limit to the many variations of forts, cubbies, clubhouses, hideouts, and dens.

MATERIALS

- Branches
- Bamboo
- Straw bales
- Pieces of burlap
- Cardboard boxes
- Rope and twine
- Tarps or outdoor fabric
- Leaves & pine needles
- Logs or stumps
- And more!

1. Choose an area that includes trees, logs, fences, walls, or posts to provide a structure for children to build against or create a permanent armature to support children’s ever-changing, imaginative constructions.
2. Select natural and manufactured building materials carefully to allow for safe, fun building (no sharp, splintered edges).
3. Gather a mix of materials in the natural construction area for the children to use.