



# TREE WORLDS

## Time spent between trees fosters new stories and realities

**Goal:** Nature can be a portal to other worlds. Let the children enjoy their own little worlds. Children are able to create their own unique places and characters in nature using materials found in nature. They are becoming more familiar with and closer to nature.

**How long:** 30–60 minutes

**Who:** 4–99

**Where:** A place in a natural setting, among trees, where there are plenty of natural materials on hand

**When:** All year round (start in the warm part of the year)

**You need:** Natural materials, toy characters or tools for making characters, seat cushions, scissors, string



### 1. SMALL WORLDS

Children love to discover or create small worlds outside. Anything is possible in their own world, universe, or even reality. Provide a space where children can create their own worlds which will develop their imagination and receptiveness to the natural world. Often all it takes is just stopping at a suitable place. You can encourage a small-world theme with a short story or narrative or introducing characters that the children will take over at some point.

*TIP: You can bring characters (people or animals) with you from home if you don't have the time or natural materials to make some.*

### 2. TWIGGIES

Make Twiggies with the children. Just cut dry branches into the right shape, paint some faces, and you get the whole family of Twiggies! Where in the tree will they live? What will they experience? Pick a home and story for them.

### 3. ACORN ELVES

Have you heard of acorn elves and their unique and creative world yet? Then browse their website <https://acornelves.com/> for inspiration and try to make some. You can create your own characters. Trees can easily become an important part of these small worlds.

### 4. TOBY ALONE

The unique world of Toby Lolness was created in the books by Timothée de Fombelle. It would be easy to overlook Toby, measuring just one and a half millimetres. He lives with his family in a single tree that is his home, his wilderness, his whole world. The book offers a completely different reality, with its own world, views and experiences.

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You can start with the novel *Toby Alone* and read the book with your children. Then try to find Toby among the trees. Look for little details in a tree where Toby and his family might live, find various places from the story in the tree or figure out how the story might go on.

*TIP: You can listen to the story of Toby Lolness with your children with an audiobook.*

*TIP: Discover other tree and forest micro worlds. Take out your other favourite books, stories and fairy tales. How about getting inspired by the truffle trees found in *The Lorax*?*

## 5. PRESENT YOUR WORLDS

It is useful to have the children share their created worlds and talk about who lives in them and what they experience. You can also discuss how it feels to create a world, and talk about what else they are interested in building.

### EVALUATION OF THE ACTIVITY'S GOAL (EVIDENCE OF LEARNING)

The children created characters and invented stories in nature.

New little worlds were created for the characters using imagination.

The children experienced nature as a place where new worlds could easily be created in the grass, roots, trunks or tree crowns with just a little imagination.

