



Toadstool Small World

Product Notes

www.tts-shopping.com

This delightful, small world house can be used in a variety of learning contexts. It is designed to be robust and can be used indoors and out. The house is easily cleaned. It is aimed at fostering a sense of awe and wonder and to encourage enriched and magical learning opportunities.

- Place in an Active World Tray and use pretend grass to set the scene. Decorate the location around it with plants, stones, leaves etc. Create a little bridge and stream. Use fabric, cellophane, stones etc. to create a river, stream effect. Make a little garden around the cottage and add soil to create a vegetable patch. Add real or pretend flowers. Moss, shredded paper etc. can help create texture and realism. Set up a little table and chairs and perhaps a camp fire. Simply join three sticks together with string. Under the sticks add tiny pieces of wood and a few pieces of shiny paper to create the fire effect.
- Let the children explore the different levels the cottage has to offer. Peer inside and find the attic room. Discuss with the children who they think lives there. Is it similar to their home? What furniture do you think should go in the cottage? What will the inhabitants need in the rooms?
- Use small world furniture, make your own designs or perhaps use materials that symbolically represent a cooker, a chair etc.
- Use outdoors in a more natural environment. Imagine finding this lovely location in the garden amongst the flowers or cabbages. It could also be used on a playground surface and then dressed with accessories to set the scene. Place on a piece of pretend grass or on a piece of carpet.
- Let the children choose who they think lives in the house. Provide a range of small world figures, but also plain wooden resources, so they can create their own characters. You could even add photographs of real people to the plain, wooden block people.
- When creating the interior; furnishings enable the children to have access to a wide variety of texture, colours and materials. Children will love making the bedding from pieces of fabric, as well as table cloths, towels etc. What should you do with the windows? Do you need to make some curtains or blinds? You could use sticky tape to fasten them to the walls?
- How will the elves and fairies see in the dark? Do you need a tiny battery light?
- What will be in the kitchen? What will the characters eat? Use these questions as opportunities for rich conversation starters.
- Use the conversation to enrich vocabulary. Mathematical literacy can really be enhanced. Think of all the words for tiny, eg. mini, minute, teeny etc.
- The fairies (or whoever lives there) may be very shy, so how will you communicate with them? Discuss the options. You could perhaps have a post-box to send letters. Remember the size of the letter may need to be shrunk. You could reduce the size of the writing on a photocopier.
- If the cottage is left out in the snow explore making it part of a wintery adventure. If there is enough snow the children could build walls and even a tiny snowman.

- Leave challenges in the top of the cottage. Write as a rolled up scroll to add interest. You could even make a treasure map which could lead you to where the elves have hidden their treasure.