

## Active World Enchanted Wood Mat

### Product Code: EY06814

This mat is meant to be used with wet and dry materials in order to create a multi-sensory experience.

The landscape reflects a lovely kingdom where elves, fairies, pixies etc. could perhaps live. There are no characters actually shown as we prefer to leave this to the children's imaginations.

Use the mat inside one of the Active World Trays. Here are some of the ways the children might interact with the mat. (It is important that the children choose the direction of the play).

- The children may like to go and select a range of natural materials to bring their mat to life. If they cannot find their own, have trays, drawers, boxes, etc. that the children can choose items from.  
Try – gravel, stones, pebbles, moss, sticks, leaves, wood, bark, etc.
- The children may choose to make the different houses they can see. One is from a tree trunk so perhaps a piece of wood with doors and windows attached might be used. The others could be made from 'junk' materials eg. boxes, etc.
- There are different ways of making the accessories. The bridge could be bought or make. The tables and chairs could be made from pieces of wood or small world furniture could be used.
- The children may like to make the grassy areas more realistic. Try using real grass, shredded green ribbon, pretend grass, green wool, green pasta, etc.
- Incorporate other small world resources such as butterflies, birds, badgers, rabbits, etc.
- Talk to the children about how they could make the pond and the waterfall. You do not want the water to flood the garden. Try using clear acrylic pebbles, safe wallpaper paste (the one without chemicals) etc. There is also a boat you may wish to float, so a shallow container with water in it and the edges surrounded by foliage and stones might create the effect.
- The children may wish to design their own characters for the scene. Try using the plain wooden people and then the children can use their own imaginations. The children may like to incorporate the elves, fairies, superheroes etc. that are available.
- There are holes around the edge of the tray where twigs/leaves can be inserted in order to give the scene a more realistic feel and greater depth and height.

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- There is a vegetable patch and garden depicted on the mat. The children could use soil or some other textured material. The vegetables could be 2d or 3d and made from paper, dough, etc. Scrunch up tissue paper to make the cabbages and the flowers.
- As this is a magical land the children may enjoy incorporating some sparkle. Have access to glitter jewels and other treasure like items.

The mat really can be used in many different ways. Encourage the children to make up stories and to be creative. Ideally they are the ones who are independently creating this small world location,

so enable them to access resources and make choices.