

# Cosy Cottages



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## Product Codes

EY04685, EY04686, EY04687  
Set of 3 Cottages EY04771

## Introduction

These three wooden structures can be used indoors or out. They are designed so that young children can crawl into them and feel removed from what is around them. Through the children's imaginations they can be transported into various locations. They can be decorated or left plain. Place a waterproof piece of fabric on the floor or a carpet to make it more cosy. The children may choose to take cushions and other accessories inside. (N.B. do not use staples into the wood).

## Ideas

- Make the cottages into communication zones. One could be for mark making. Have a range of materials, from clipboards to chalks. The children can write in, on and around the cottage. Add phones, listening and recording devices to make the emphasis on speaking and listening. The cottages are also a lovely space to curl up with a good book. Add torches for that extra interest dimension.
- Try making castles by adding correlated sides and perhaps even a flag. Have a range of fabrics to make suitable dressing up attire.
- Use camouflage covers. These along with jute scrim are useful for incorporating natural materials such as leaves.
- Have an under the sea theme with shells, fish, seaweed and perhaps even a mermaid. Tie a fishing net to the top securely and attach various objects. Perhaps there could be buried treasure inside.

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- Have seasonal themes. In winter there could be an ice cave, an igloo or a place to hide from a blizzard. Use cold colours e.g. blue and white. Hang icicles and snowflakes and drape with fabrics. In summer have a house for Mary Mary and have cockleshells and flowers to decorate. Autumn could have lovely coloured leaves. Have books relating to the themes in baskets for ease of use.
- The cottages could be part of a High Street. They could be homes or different shops. Have a grocers, a hairdressers or a cafe. The sides could be decorated and signs about what is sold on display. Don't forget the open and closed sign.
- Let the children decorate the cottages in their own styles. Have access to fabrics, foils, pegs, paper, tape etc.
- Sometimes a book theme may be the inspiration. Fairy stories can offer ideas e.g. the house of the Three Bears, Snow White's home, a castle etc.
- Make a mirror cave by attaching different acrylic mirrors. (N.B. Ensure the fastenings are only temporary e.g. hook and loop or tape. Do not use staples).
- Decorate with ribbons. Weave different colours inside and out. (Ensure that there are no long loose threads which could be harmful).
- Make a time machine, able to whisk you to various places. The children may wish to incorporate ICT e.g. recording devices, sound buttons etc.
- Have a maths theme with numbers adorning the sides. Have access to a wide variety of mathematical resources e.g. shapes, measuring equipment, counters etc.
- Make a bird hide. Include binoculars, a bird book and mark making equipment.
- Make your own mini museum, complete with artefacts and labels.
- Sometimes the children may choose to extend the cottages by adding an extension. Access to crates, planks, pegs etc may help with the creativity.
- Make an artist's studio. Attach canvas to the sides so the children can draw/paint etc. Have access to a wide range of art materials.

## **N.B.**

As with all activities ensure thorough risk assessments are carried out. If attaching fabrics, ribbons etc ensure that there are no potential choking hazards.