

Lesson Plan 2: Art/DT - Shelter building

(Slide 18 is relevant to this lesson)

These are Art/DT projects asking the children to make or design a shelter or useful item from natural or recycled materials. There is the potential for the shelter building activity to be done as part of Forest School. You will need to ask the children to collect 'junk' well in advance of this activity.

Background

Many of the homeless children in the Philippines have to make their own shelters from materials that they find. In the city, they are likely to be made from corrugated iron, sticks, plastic covers and cardboard boxes. In the mountains, they are more likely to use sticks and wood and weave leaves to make the shelter weatherproof.

Some of the children who come to the Mercy in Action Drop in Centre live in a field near the market. They have made themselves a small 'house' using old tarpaulins and empty rice sacks. Up to 20 children sleep here. It isn't very strong and so the children have to shelter under bridges and underpasses when the weather gets bad.



Resources needed

- Boxes
- Drinks cartons (washed)
- Other items from recycling boxes
- Tarpaulins
- Ropes and string
- Leaves and sticks
- Cardboard boxes for shelter building

The Task

Using items from their recycling boxes at home and school, what can the children make that would be useful or could be sold to make money?

Using materials they are given/can find, can they make a shelter? Perhaps you could test whether the shelter is water-proof by pouring water on it?

The Discussion

Can we find a use for rubbish? How would it feel to know that you could only eat if you could earn your own money by selling something you have collected or made?

Is the shelter warm, comfortable, safe, water-proof? How would it feel to sleep there night after night?