



Natural  
Playscapes

# DENS

Discover the many  
benefits of den building  
for play and learning.





Making dens form some of our happiest childhood memories whether its draping blankets over tables or building a tipi from twigs in the woods - this process is vital for developing motor skills and getting children used to team work.

“A den is the child's chance to create a home away from home that is secret, and becomes a manifestation of who they are”

- David Soper, Developmental Psychologist





## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The process of building a den is just as valuable to your child's development as the hours of playtime that come from its construction - building on logical planning skills, physical strength and communication abilities. Dens are a brilliant hands on way to learn, particularly for early years.

### 1. Place Making

Finding the perfect location for a den is fun in itself - it allows children to explore the world they live in and builds individual confidence to make marks and own their playspaces.

### 2. Get Planning!

Building a successful den is a challenge - children will quickly learn which materials work best, how to balance and secure components as well as the importance of team work and communication.

### 3. Versatility

The appearance and versatility of a natural den or den building structure encourages interaction and creativity from its users. The ever evolving nature of den building means you're providing a platform for countless imaginative scenarios, games and journeys, it keeps children across all ages and abilities focused on the task in hand, as well as improving their spatial cognitive awareness.

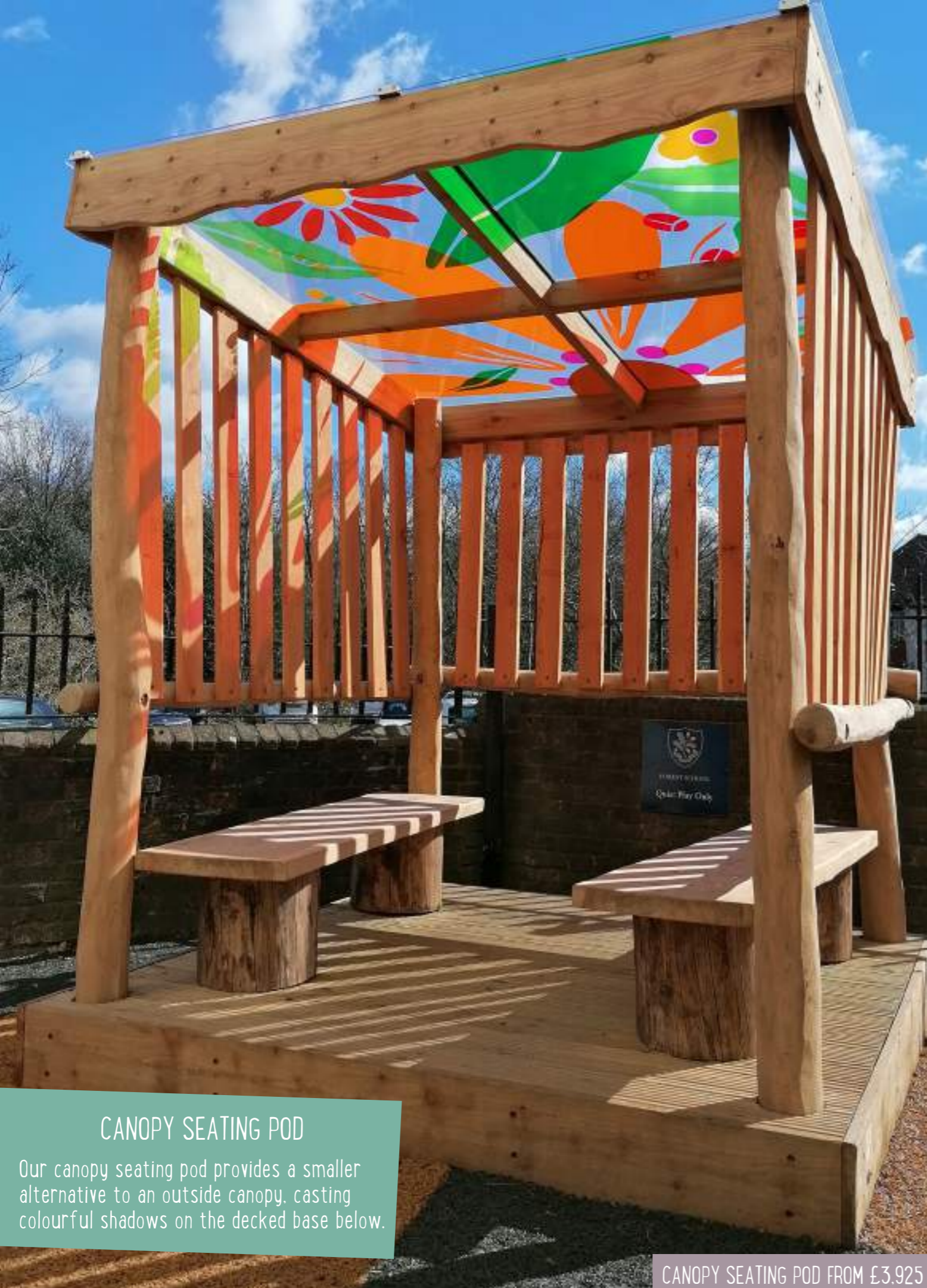
### 4. Communication

Social communication is vital for a child's development and interactive play such as building and roleplay supports this by encouraging communication between children and adults, creating opportunities to work together, confront problems and form solutions.

### 5. Cognitive Development

Inspiring children to make and do supports their cognitive development and ability to problem solve.





## CANOPY SEATING POD

Our canopy seating pod provides a smaller alternative to an outside canopy, casting colourful shadows on the decked base below.

CANOPY SEATING POD FROM £3.925



LOOKOUT LODGE FROM £4.210



BRANCH DEN FROM £3.310



FOREST DEN FROM £3.365

# OUR DENS

## REFLECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Children use carefully considered small spaces for times to reflect and communicate with others, remember the times you built dens as a child? They became your castle and kingdom where friendships were formed and secret rules applied. This type of reflective communication only happens when children feel safe and value their spaces.

In it's unstructured form, a den may help children who respond less well to a formal classroom environment to develop their skills and abilities. Social communication is vital for a child's development and den building provides an excellent opportunity for this, particularly as it offers them the opportunity to plan their next meeting or game.

As children work collaboratively to plan, build and project manage their den building they naturally have to cooperate with each other, problem solving and consulting with each other throughout the process.

## OUR RANGE

- ✓ Den Building Kit
- ✓ Apex Den Building Kit
- ✓ Tipi
- ✓ Branch Den
- ✓ Canopy Branch Den
- ✓ Canopy Seating Pod
- ✓ Forest Den
- ✓ Lookout Lodge
- ✓ Snug Den
- ✓ Growing Den

## OPEN ENDED DENS

Creating and building the den is the most enjoyable part of the process and children can let their imaginations go wild.

Unlike off the shelf playhouses, castles, shops and tipis, homemade dens aren't prescriptive, they can be anything children want them to be. Open-ended dens allow children to develop creative and independent learning. When dens are prescriptive, they're no longer a special place for children and learning opportunities are limited. Open ended dens can be added to, adapted, changed, retracted and enhanced as the imaginative narrative of the child is expressed and explored.

Children can pretend they are in a rocket or police car, but are not limited to this, and equally can be in an enchanted forest or on another planet. These imaginative experiences are where the open-ended language and child initiated learning happens, forming the foundation for quality creative writing.

The creative opportunities offered by den building are limitless. From the outset a child needs to think imaginatively to begin putting their den together, making revisions and being willing to think creatively to adapt the structure where necessary.

A child will enjoy creating their own games, rules and scenarios as they revise and refine their den, all the time developing their creativity as new stories are produced.



CANOPY BRANCH DEN FROM £5.050



SNUG DEN FROM £5.050



DEN BUILDING KIT FROM £1.550



## BESPOKE DENS

Get in touch today to discuss your bespoke den design!



CANOPY BRANCH DEN FROM £5.050



### CHALLENGE AND RISK

Depending on the location of the den, children can also experience challenge and risk, in a safe environment. Many children will actively seek out the help of adults when building their den as a way to share experiences.

In addition to experiencing challenge, children are able to develop their risk assessment skills. Children will quickly learn how to analyse their risks and consider what might be the results of action taken. Without exposure to risk children can be vulnerable to danger and are less likely to be willing to take risks in general in later life.



### WELLBEING

Building a den can be therapeutic and relaxing; a chance to switch off from everything else and focus on creating the den and working with others towards a collaborative goal. The satisfaction derived on completing it will also contribute to the builder's wellbeing, as they are able to enjoy the benefits of their own creation. This is true for adults and children alike, and den building is something from which both can enjoy relaxation and space for reflection.





Natural  
Playscapes

Natural play specialists:  
a bespoke playground design and  
build company.

Natural Playscapes assume a responsibility to shape  
the hearts and minds of a generation through creative  
and explorative play.

We have an experienced team with RPII playground  
safety training and more than 50 years experience in  
the industry so your playground is in safe hands.



Robinia:

We stand by our choice of using Robinia in our play  
structures as it is one of the most robust timbers  
available. We have included more information on  
Robinia at the end of your proposal.

CALL OUR  
TELEPHONE 

01435 812 484  
Office hours 8am - 4:30pm  
Monday - Friday

SEND US  
AN E-MAIL 

Anytime, we aim to respond to  
our enquiries within 48 hours  
[hello@naturalplayscapes.co.uk](mailto:hello@naturalplayscapes.co.uk)

VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE 

Browse our playscapes  
online at your leisure by visiting:  
[www.naturalplayscapes.co.uk](http://www.naturalplayscapes.co.uk)



## YOUR PLAYGROUND JOURNEY

Our process ensures that your playground  
journey is as stress-free as possible, with full  
communications with our team.



Our team design your  
playground and we  
present this to you in a  
design proposal.



Please let us know your  
comments and any  
questions. We want to get  
your design right for you!



Once your design is  
signed off, our workshop  
team begin to build your  
bespoke playground.



Delivery of your equipment  
will arrive on site and you  
will begin to see your  
playspace coming together!



Our team will finish the  
transformation, clear  
your site and hand your  
playground over to you!



The children can begin  
to use their exciting new  
place space. We love to  
hear what they think!



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