



B.C. First Nations Head Start **Make a Camping Centre**

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LIVING OUT ON THE LAND AND NEAR THE SEA IS PART OF TRADITIONAL LIFESTYLES. CHILDREN ARE INTRODUCED TO CAMPING OR REENACT FAMILIAR EXPERIENCES WHEN A CAMPING AREA IS SET UP AS AN ATTRACTIVE AND INTERESTING PLAY AREA.

What you need

A small tent or tipi (if relevant), more than one if space is available

Firewood

Medium sized stones or blocks

Food prep items (fry pan, spatula, cutting board, cutlery, camping dishes, kettle, cooler, play food or empty food containers)

Camping clothes (old flannel shirts, vests, and hats)

Flashlights

Sleeping bags or blankets and mats

Fishing poles, bait box, net

Clothesline rope and clothes pins

Picnic table, camp chairs

Toy animals relevant to community

Assortment of hides, furs or blankets to wrap around dolls

Hammock for dolls

Cradleboard for dolls

Mittens and hats

A backdrop for a camping centre can be painted—for example, a forest and stream

Books about camping and animals

Activity Ideas

- Introduce camping and experiences out on the land to children through books, stories and talking before camping area is set up.
 - Let children play in camping area with what interests them.
 - Use firewood props as a gathering point and tell stories around the “fire”.
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From *Child Care In Our Communities* (p. 24-25). Part of the series of booklets and videos, *Our Children, Our Ways* (Early Childhood Education in First Nations and Inuit Communities) produced by Red River College, 2000.

This excellent series is directly relevant to on-reserve Head Starts. Booklets have many easy curriculum activities which can be adapted and which don't require any fancy supplies. You can order them from Duvall House Publishing.