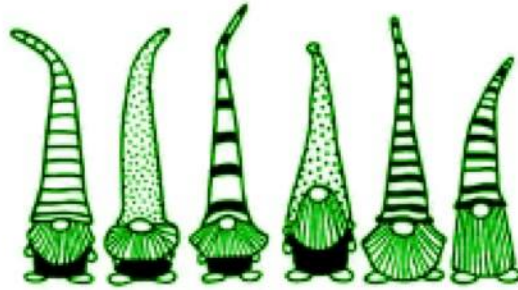


## Forest Gnomes: DIY Mud Kitchen



**Creating a mud kitchen is a great way to help your Gnome enjoy rainy, muddy days!**

### You'll Need:

- Any kitchen utensils that you're willing to get dirty (ex: recycled bottles/bins, bowls, pots, pans, spoons, forks, spatulas..really anything!) Buckets and shovels are also great to use!
  - Note: Sometimes less is more! Encourage your gnome to use their creativity to transform sticks into spoons, or bark into plates. They're used to creating their own fun out of the nature around them!
- Plenty of MUD! :)



## How to Create Your Own Mud Kitchen:

1. **Gear up for the weather--** Throw on puddle pants and bog boots. Remember, there's no bad weather, just bad gear!
2. **Set up your kitchen--** dedicate a space outside where you can start cooking. Ask your gnome what their pretend kitchen looks like. Ideas: create a kitchen counter, oven for baking, table for serving food...
3. **Gather supplies from nature--** ask your Gnome what ingredients you need. Maybe collect some "ground spice," find some sticky and liquidity mud, search for rocks/twigs/acorns/leaves
4. **Have fun and get dirty!--** getting your hands dirty is a great way to model outdoor play and to have fun too!



### Mud Kitchen Challenges:

*Take photos of your creations and share them in our Facebook group!*

- **Muddy Milkshake:** *What sort of ice cream and toppings will you choose? Is it chunky or smooth?*
- **Sticky Soup:** *Help Grandmother Forest experiment with a new recipe! Make sure to add some “secret ingredients” for the forest animals to enjoy!*
- **Cookie Dough:** *Make your own batter, roll out the dough, and shape your own cookie. Can you make the gingerbread friend?*
- **Hot Snack:** *Re-create hot-snack for your family! What toppings go on your rice or oats? What new toppings would you add to your bowl?*
- **Happy Birthday:** *Choose someone’s birthday to celebrate! Maybe it’s slowpoke the barn cat? Or Abi-yo-yo, or someone at home! Make sure to decorate your cake and to add candles!*
- **Squirrel Snack:** *Make a special treat for the squirrels and gather as many acorns as you can for toppings! Leave it out overnight and see what’s missing in the morning...*
- **Open a restaurant:** *Ask your gnome if they would like to become a chef and pretend that you are a customer at their restaurant. Ask them what is on the menu and order away!*