

## Virtual Dolls House

The instructions by governments all over the world for people to stay at home during the coronavirus pandemic has made everyone more aware of their personal space and the value of their community.

The 70 million refugees around the world have also lost their freedom of movement and access to their communities.

In the Virtual Giant Dolls' House project, we ask children of all ages and their close ones to creatively share their experience of staying in one space because of self-isolation and social distancing. Making a dolls' house in a shoebox engages participants in critical thinking and craft skills. It visually demonstrates the importance of community and mutual support for all people.



### Explanation of the Activity

All that is required is a box (it doesn't have to be a shoebox!). Decorate it in a way that reflects your current experiences, emotions and surroundings, or something else that helps you find comfort in these times.

You can make a box with members of their household or on your own.

### Creative tips

To make your doll's house you need a shoebox or box of any size, without a lid.

You can decorate the box with anything that you find in your home or your environment. Think about natural materials such as bark, plants and natural fibres or reused materials such as old magazines, fabric scraps, loo rolls, scraps of wallpaper, bottle caps, old newspapers, sweet wrapping, plastic bottle caps, old fabric, etc.

Then there's lolly-pop sticks, paper and card, pencil and paint as well as old pieces of jewellery, anything you can find. You can make whatever you like in your box. You'll also need glue, scissors and pen and paper (be careful with sharps and ask an adult for help if you need it). Cans, lolly-pop sticks, bottle tops. Look what you have in your house. Look what you can make from simple elements. Have a look below for some ideas!



Sweet wrapper



Button



Pipe cleaners and card



Straw



Plastic pot



Bottle tops



Tin foil



Jam jar lid



Sweet wrapper



Ribbon



Cocktail umbrella



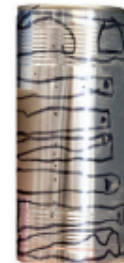
Ice lolly stick



Nespresso pot



Card and fabric



Tin can

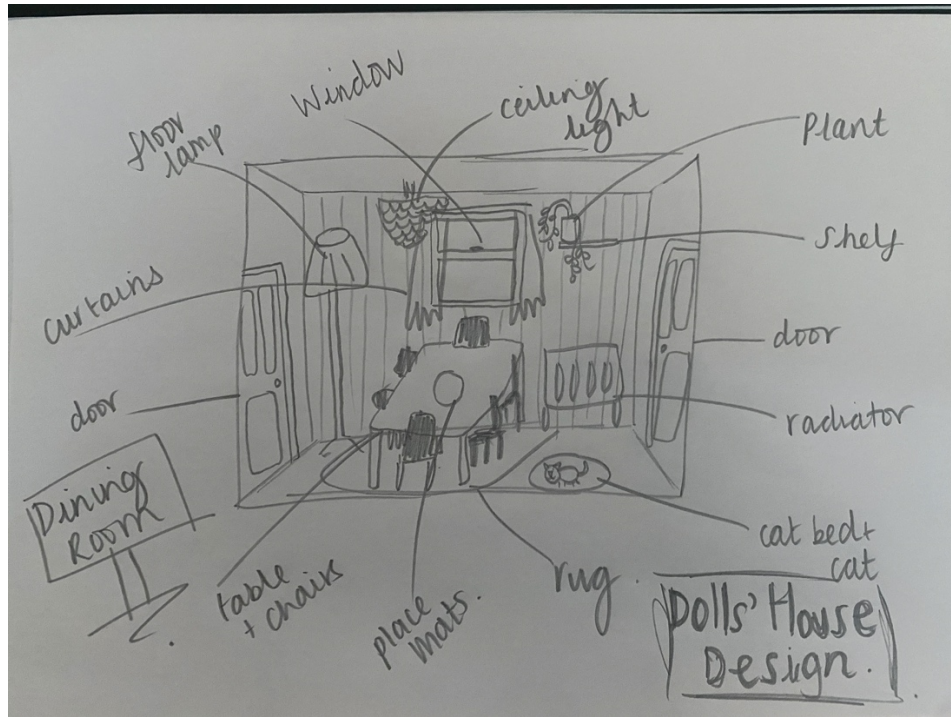


Bottle caps

Monday

Think about designing your dolls' house. What room have you spent the most time in during lockdown? What room has brought you and your family together? What room do you like spending the most time in at home?

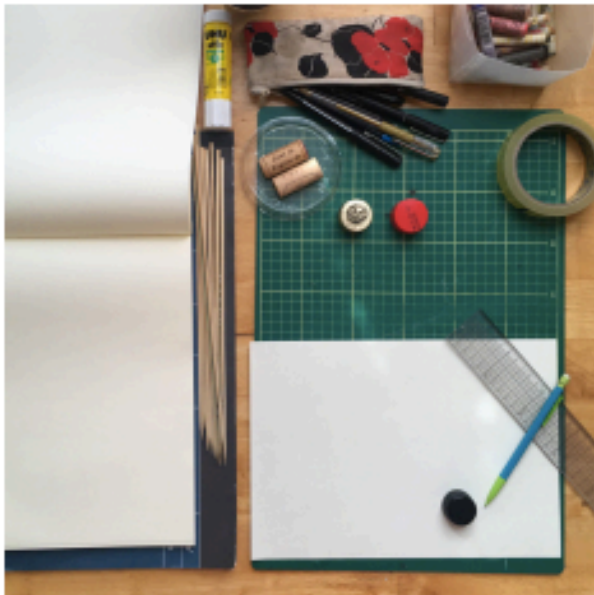
I have decided to create my dining room. I have drawn it out- see image below.



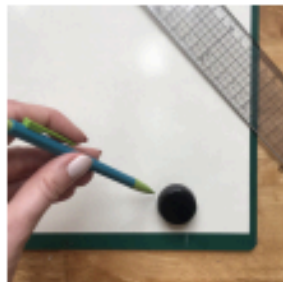
This is just a rough drawing of what the dining room looks like with labels added. What I did next was go around the house to look for items that I knew would work in making my dolls' house dining room. I didn't think too hard, as I will be creative with the items below. I may need more materials but these will do for now!



## Creative tips and examples



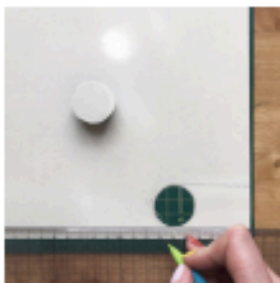
See what you can find in your house and gather materials



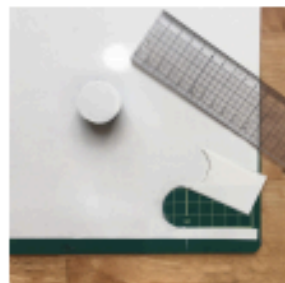
Place the lid on paper and draw around it



Cut the circle out - this will be the seat top



Draw a line from top and bottom of circle



Cut the rectangle out



Draw a line for width of bottle lid



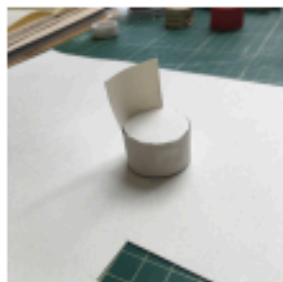
Cut along lines to get a strip of paper



Glue a section of the lid



Stick both rectangles to lid for the back and base



Check everything has stuck



Now you have a seat for your dolls' house!



## Creative tips and examples



Find a sheet of scrap paper



Fold paper into a triangle and tear off the bottom to make a square



Fold paper in quarters



Cut along fold line a quarter in on two sides



Fold the edges to start to form the table and glue



Press glued sides together and create the table!



See what else you can make out of paper scraps!

Have a go at creating your dolls' house room.  
(Tuesday's instructions to follow!)