



## Tilda 2021 - building beneficial bugs a home in the garden

### Goals for the year

Tilda decided to focus on her school garden. She knew insects and small animals were the key to a successful garden and decided to attract more of them by building insect hotels. As Environmental Co-Captain, she worked with her team to carry out the project.

She and her partner did lots of research before being able to put the plan into action, including finding out all the benefits of an insect hotel and the easiest way to make them. They chose a design that only required bamboo and string and met with their Principal to pitch the idea. When they got approval, they were able to organise a time to make the hotels.

### Others involved

The building of the hotels was a way to teach their peers about the garden at the same time. Once they'd taught their peers the process, the peers then mentored younger students to make their own. Her partner was able to supply two big shopping bags of bamboo from her own garden.

They set up all their materials at a table and built them at break time. This was a deliberate way of providing students with a hands-on task whilst learning the importance of an insect hotel to the garden.

### Biggest success or achievement

It was a great success and very easy to do. The small hotels are now spread out across the garden, and they hope over the summer holidays a lot of insects will make use of them.

Here are the four easy steps to build your own:

1. Get a couple of pieces of bamboo and some string
2. Wrap the string around the bamboo so that it is tight and sturdy
3. With the rest of the string make a loop
4. Hang it up in a tree.

### Challenges

Tilda and her team had to have a few meetings with the Principal to get permission and ensure their project would be safe. Their research involved finding the best way to make the hotels, because they didn't want them to get ruined in the school environment.