

# Play Card 1

## Under the Sea Reading Den



### Quick summary

Create an **under the sea imaginative play and storytelling den** using material, lights, homemade underwater creatures made from tin foil, and tissue paper!

### Key skills

Imaginative Play,  
Storytelling, Regulating  
Emotions (calm, quiet time),  
Creativity



### What you need

A suitable table, coloured paper or card, string, tin foil, sticky tape, blue sheet or blanket, cushions, fairy lights and strips of tissue paper.



### Instructions

Depending on the age of your child, they might enjoy setting up the den with you!



**1. Find a suitable table** from which you can hang various materials to create a cosy den.

**2. Create your homemade shiny fish** decorations. On pieces of card, draw and cut different shapes representing the sea creatures that live in the ocean – for example, a starfish, fish, or jellyfish.

**3. Wrap your shapes in a shiny material** such as tin foil to create shiny underwater creatures.



**4. Attach string to your shiny creatures** and hang them from the underside of the table using sticky tape.

**5. Cut strips of tissue or crepe paper** in different shades of blue or green and attach them to the table so that they hang down.

**6. Place blankets and cushions** around the floor of the den. Add your fairy lights so that the den is cosy and provides an enjoyable sensory experience for your little one.

**7. Add *That's not my shark...*, *That's not my turtle...*** and other sea-themed books.

### Make it more challenging

Allow your child to explore the den whenever it captures their interest, looking at the fish, describing them, or turning the pages of the books.



### During your visit to SEA LIFE

Remind your child about the sea-themed books they've read as they explore the aquarium. Do they recognise any of the creatures that have read about? It might even be a good idea to bring relevant books with you, to help your child make connections between what they read and the world around them.

