

# Fairy Door Experiment: Open a Portal in Your Own Backyard!

*Inspired by George's soccer ball adventure and the tiny door in the old oak tree*

**What You'll Need (mostly free nature finds + household basics):**

- A handful of straight sticks or twigs (gather on a family walk—perfect mindfulness moment!)
- String, twine, or yarn (for tying)
- Glue (tacky glue or hot glue for grown-ups) – outdoor-safe if possible
- Scissors (adult help for cutting)
- Optional magic touches: Acorn caps (for doorknobs), small pebbles/stones (for steps), moss bits, pinecones, leaves, feathers, or tiny "treasures" like buttons or shells
- A tree, garden spot, or even a large flower pot/base (the "old oak" spot!)

**Step-by-Step Instructions (Do this as a family adventure!):**

1. **Hunt for Your Portal Spot.** Go outside together (backyard, park, or trail). Look for a big, friendly tree—like Grandmother Tree—with a natural nook, root bulge, or flat spot at the base. This is where the fairies might live! Pause and breathe: Feel the bark, listen for whispers (wind in leaves?), share what you notice. (Tie-in to your mindfulness walks!)
2. **Build the Fairy Door Base.** Collect 8–12 similar-sized sticks/twigs (about 4–6 inches long). Line them up side by side to form a rectangular "door" shape (like tiny planks). Glue or tie two longer sticks diagonally across the back to hold them together (like braces). For a no-glue version: Wrap the string around the bundle tightly in a few spots.
3. **Add Magical Details**
  - **Door knob/handle:** Glue or tie on an acorn cap, pebble, or tiny twig loop.
  - **Hinges/windows:** Add small cross sticks or leaves for "windows."
  - **Surround it:** Glue moss around the edges for a natural frame, add pebble "steps" leading up, or scatter pinecones like lanterns.
  - **Personalize:** Draw runes/symbols with a marker, or add a tiny sign saying "Fairy Friends Welcome" or "Whispering Garden Entrance."
4. **Attach to the Tree/Garden Gently** place or lean the door against the tree base (no nails needed—nature glue, like mud, or just prop it!). For extra hold: Use a string to loosely tie it around the trunk/root, or tuck it into a natural crevice. (Be gentle—trees are living friends!) If indoors or on a pot: Use a small rock or clay base to stand it up.
5. **Open the Portal & Invite Magic.** Say a family chant together: "Tiny door, swing open wide—fairies come, with wings and pride!" (Or make up your own.) Leave a tiny "offering" nearby: A flower petal, shiny stone, or note saying "Thanks for the adventure!" Check back daily—watch for signs (moved leaves? Dewy sparkles? Imaginary footprints?). Tell stories about what the fairies might be doing inside!

**Safety & Eco Tips**

- Adult supervision for glue/scissors.
- Use only fallen nature items—leave living plants alone.
- This is pretend play magic—no real fairies required, but imagination makes it real!
- If outdoors, it might weather over time—that's part of the story evolving.

## **Bonus Fun Ideas**

- **Draw what you think is behind the door (fairy rooms? Gnome workshops?).**
- **Take photos of your creation and share with #FamilyAdventurePress—we might feature it!**
- **Combine with your Family Mindfulness Walk: Do the walk, then build the door as the "treasure" at the end.**