

# The 3 Little St Modwen Pigs Activity

**Primary School Site involved Activity**

# The 3 Little St Modwen Pigs Activity

The story of Three Little Pigs is not only a staple in the lives of most children, but it’s also the perfect lesson plan for primary school students to get them interested in housebuilding and what we do at St Modwen Homes.

In this lesson, students will work in three teams to design and build houses that will (hopefully) withstand the huff and the puff of the big bad wolf.

This lesson will take approximately one 45-60-minute class period to complete.

## Materials Needed

* 1 copy of The Three Little Pigs story
* 50 lollypop sticks for Team 1
* 50 small (hot drink) straws for Team 2
* 50 index cards for Team 3
* 1 thick piece of cardboard to serve as the foundation for each team’s house
* 1 poster board roof for each team
* One roll of masking tape for each team
* Small desk fan to serve as the big, bad wolf (preferably decorated appropriately). A hairdryer could also be used.
* paper and pencils

Other materials can also be used – lego, paper, hay, straw – could use forest school activity to gather the materials. etc.

## Preparation

1. If you’d like to turn your box fan into a big, bad wolf, feel free to draw or print a cartoon photo of a wolf and place on top of the fan. If you have a wolf mask handy, you could use that, too.
2. Divide the materials into three groups so students can easily pick up exactly what their team needs for the challenge.

## Lesson detail

1. Read The Three Little Pigs out loud to your class.
2. After reading, ask students what they think is needed to build a strong house. Consider linking this to different weather conditions–what would you need if you live in a windy climate? A hot climate? A snowy and cold climate?
3. Divide your class into three groups and Introduce the Three Little Pigs Design Challenge:
   1. Can your team design and build a house that the big, bad wolf can’t blow down? Requirements:
      1. Your house must be built on the provided foundation (must be at the bottom of the house) and using the roof (must be at the top of the house) provided.
      2. You can only use the materials provided to your team.
      3. Everyone must work together and all ideas need to be considered.
      4. You only have 20 minutes to build your house and have it tested.
4. Show students the “Big, Bad Wolf” so they know the force of the wind (huffing and puffing). Note: You can extend this challenge by using a fan with different levels (high, medium, low) and students that pass the “low” fan can move to medium and then high, etc. You can also move the fan to pre-determined locations measuring from further to closer to the house.
5. Hand out each team’s assigned material to use. (Note: If you have larger classes, you can divide the students into more than three groups and add additional building materials such as different straw sizes, different lollypop stick sizes, and different paper stock weight sizes. But every team needs to use the same foundation and the same room.)
6. Encourage students to draw or sketch their ideas before building.
7. Students have 20 mins for the build.

## Judging - Site Team to join class where possible.

1. Site Team to join the class virtually and be positioned so they can see the ‘Testing Zone’
2. After 20 minutes, students must bring their house to the “testing zone.” Note: their house can face any direction, but the wind must always come from the same place. If the house is still standing after 20 seconds, success!

## Discussion – Site Team to join class where possible.

Give students time to write down their answers individually and then discuss as a class:

* What material worked the best?
* Why do you think some materials were more effective than others?
* Was your house able to withstand the huffing and puffing of the big bad wolf?
* How could you improve your design?

Site team to give some praise and feedback on the students’ efforts.

## Extension

* Extension: What are all of the different jobs that are needed in order to build a house (make a list on the whiteboard)?
* How many of these jobs require an understanding of science, technology, engineering, and/or math (place a star next to these jobs)?