



Mini Catio Challenge

Modern cats have a strong predatory drive and need to hunt - even though they are well-fed, pampered house pets. But going outside can expose them to many dangers. So, how do we let our feline friends be themselves while staying safe inside? A Catio, of course!

A catio is a covered, outdoor patio for cats that allows them to express natural behaviours, like hunting and scratching, in their own secure space. Your task is to design a miniature 3D version .

Materials: Pencil, paper, and eraser to sketch the design; any materials you have at home such as recyclables, popsicle sticks, or pipecleaners and hot glue to put it all together.

Directions: **Research**

1

Did you know cats are selectively social, preferring to keep their social circle small? Or that they head bump to show affection? Understanding cat behaviour is important to helping with your design.

2

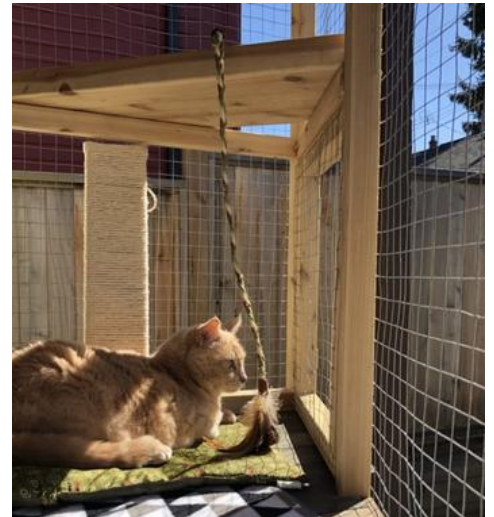
Design

Food, water, litter, what else? Think about their natural behaviours such as chasing, hunting and scratching. Don't forget about possible hazards or dangers in your design. Get ideas online or look at the examples on the next page.

3

Build

Make a miniature 3D model of your catio with materials you have at home.



Thinking Question:

Catios can help avoid conflicts, like when your cat chooses to use your neighbour's vegetable garden as their outdoor litterbox. What other conflicts can be avoided by cats using a catio?



Parent Tip:

If your child has been asking to get a pet, here is the purrfect opportunity to talk about basic pet care and if your family (and house!) are ready for a pet.

Examples of real full -sized Catio

