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Opening extract from
The Stick Book

Written by
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Jo Schofield**

Published by
**Frances Lincoln
Publishers Ltd**

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A photograph of two young children in a forest. The child on the left is a boy with light hair, wearing a black and white patterned sweater, holding a large, dark, textured stick horizontally across his shoulders. The child on the right is a girl with curly hair, wearing a colorful striped jacket (red, orange, yellow, blue, and green), also holding the same stick. The background is a sunlit forest with yellow and green foliage.

THE stick book

loads of things you can make or do with a stick

fiona danks and jo schofield

For Connie, Dan, Edward, Hannah
and Jake

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The Stick Book
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First Frances Lincoln edition 2011

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Agency, Saffron House, 6-10 Kirby Street, London EC1N 8TS.

A catalogue record for this book is available from the
British Library.

ISBN 978-0-7112-3241-9

Printed and bound in China

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share the magic of a fire

NEVER make a fire without grown-ups present. Always follow the fire safety guidelines on page 124 .

- It's usually best to make your fire in a metal pan (a dustbin lid, hubcap or old wok), to keep it confined. Put the pan on rocks, wood or metal legs to avoid scorching the ground. If you make a fire on the ground, clear away leaf litter or cut out turf to give a base of bare soil.
- Collect tinder (dry fine material such as dried bracken or fluffy seeds) along with dead, dry twigs and sticks; this helps to get the fire going. Make a tepee of twigs as described below.
- The kindling tepee will eventually collapse. Let it form a hot bed of embers for cooking on or build it up again for warmth.
- Let the fire burn out. When it's completely cold, cover or remove the ash. Leave the site exactly as you found it.

Build a tepee of little twigs (kindling) over a bundle of tinder. Strike a match as close to the tinder as possible. When the tinder starts burning, add twigs, and then larger sticks as the fire builds.

