



## Blocks: Inspired by *The Little Red Fort 2*

Children build forts and/ or treehouses.

<p><b>Big Ideas</b></p>	<p>The design and construction process includes imagining and being inspired, asking questions, researching, planning, creating, and improving our models. Children have time to work alone and with others.</p> <p>Construction can be defined as the creation of products, including physical structures and works of art such as stories, dances, theatrical performances, and songs. The construction process can be similar across domains.</p>
<p><b>Guiding Questions</b></p>	<p>What process helps you construct structures, ideas, and works of art?                  What do you feel inspired to build, create, or compose, and what materials and tools do you need to complete this project?</p>
<p><b>Vocabulary</b></p>	<p><b>structure:</b> something that is built  <b>fort:</b> a strong building; a place with a wall or fence around it  <b>treehouse:</b> a structure built in the branches of a tree</p>
<p><b>Materials and Preparation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● paper, various size</li> <li>● writing tools</li> <li>● children’s plans, from Week 6</li> <li>● clipboards</li> <li>● varied block, including unit, foam, hollow, etc.</li> <li>● Beautiful Stuff</li> <li>● fabric, old sheets, or towels</li> <li>● pillows</li> <li>● ipad, or other technology to document</li> <li>● <i>The Little Red Fort</i>, Brenda Maier</li> <li>● <i>Homes Around the World</i>, Max Moore</li> <li>● images of forts and tree houses</li> <li>● Engineering Design Process visuals</li> </ul>

	<p>If you decide to go for a classroom fort in blocks make available fabric, sheets, towels, pillows. If you decide to construct models of treehouses and forts, make available Beautiful Stuff, both natural and recycled materials. Display images of forts and tree houses.</p>
<b>Intro to centers</b>	<p><i>Last week you started to work on plans for constructing forts and treehouses. What do you notice?</i></p> <p>Share some of the children’s plans and invite a couple of children to share their observations.</p> <p><i>Based on your plans this week you can start constructing:</i>  (option 1) <i>our classroom fort.</i>  (option2) <i>models of treehouses and forts.</i>  <i>Here are some other materials we have available besides the variety of blocks.</i></p> <p>Show the materials (option 1: sheets, fabric, towels, etc.) (option 2 beautiful stuff)  <i>How do you think you can use these materials together with blocks to create a _____?</i></p> <p>Harvest a couple of responses.</p> <p><i>Just like you did when you were working on the plans, make sure you are collaborating while creating your_____. Working together will help you to build more stable structures. Remember to follow the Engineering and Design Process as you create your_____.</i></p> <p>Show the Engineering and Design Process and point to the steps children would be thinking about.  <i>The last step of the process is to improve, share ideas with each other about how to make your _____ better. We can also share your work during Thinking &amp; Feedback.</i></p>
<b>During centers</b>	<p>As children begin to construct, remind them to refer to their plans and to work together. Engage children in thinking about what materials would be most effective for their structure and design.</p>
<b>Guiding Questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How are your plans helping you to construct a _____?</li> <li>● What is the first thing you need to do to build your _____?</li> <li>● How are you using the materials available?</li> <li>● How are you making decisions together?</li> <li>● How are you sharing your ideas with each other?</li> </ul>
<b>Standards</b>	<p><b>SL.1.K.a</b> Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about kindergarten topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups..</p> <p><b>SEL: Relationship Skills:</b> Teamwork (Boston)</p> <p><b>SEL: Relationship Skills:</b> Collaborative problem-solving (Boston)</p>

**Notes**

A large empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for taking notes.

