



Blocks: Inspired by *The Little Red Fort* 1

Children begin to make plans for forts or treehouses.

<p>Big Ideas</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>Guiding Questions</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>Vocabulary</p>	<p>structure: something that is built fort: a strong building; a place with a wall or fence around it treehouse: a structure built in the branches of a tree</p>
<p>Materials and Preparation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● paper, various sizes ● writing tools ● clipboards ● varied blocks, including unit, foam, hollow, etc. ● Beautiful Stuff ● fabric, old sheets, or towels ● pillows ● ipad, or other technology to document ● <i>The Little Red Fort</i>, Brenda Maier ● <i>Homes Around the World</i>, Max Moore ● images of forts and tree houses ● Engineering Design Process visuals <p>Decide what would work in your classroom: a classroom fort that children</p>

	can access or small versions of tree houses and forts.
Intro to centers	<p><i>We have been learning about different kinds of homes and structures that people build. This week we are reading The Little Red Fort where we meet a little girl determined to build her own idea. What kind of structure is Ruby trying to build?</i></p> <p>Harvest a couple of responses.</p> <p><i>That's right she is building a fort. Sometimes people build forts inside and sometimes they build them outside the way Ruby is doing. Sometimes when forts are built in trees, they are called treehouses.</i></p> <p>Show the images.</p> <p><i>What do you notice about these images?</i></p> <p>Harvest some responses.</p> <p><i>This week in Blocks, you can start creating plans for how to build a fort or a tree house.</i></p> <p><i>(option1) We are going to create a classroom fort in blocks!</i></p> <p><i>(option 2) We are going to create models of treehouses and forts. You can begin by following the engineering and design process: ask yourself what you are trying to do. Look at the images of forts and treehouses to research ideas. Sketch your plan.</i></p> <p>Model the steps.</p> <p><i>Share your plans with each other and work together. Next week, we will think about what materials to use and begin constructing.</i></p> <p>If the plan is for children to build models, invite them to consider a combination of blocks and beautiful stuff. If the plan is to create a classroom fort invite them to consider the use of fabric, pillows, etc.</p>
During centers	Support children to follow the steps for the Engineering and Design process as they begin this project. Remind them to look at the images to get ideas and encourage them to work together as they sketch their plans. As they think about their plans, guide them to consider and note the kinds of materials they might use for construction.
Guiding Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What would you like to create a fort or a treehouse? Why? ● What inspired you? ● How does planning help you organize your ideas? ● What materials are you planning to use? Why? ● How are you making decisions together?
Standards	<p>SL.1.K.a Participate in collaborative conversations about kindergarten topics and texts with peers, and adults in small and larger groups.</p> <p>SEL: Relationship Skills: Teamwork (Boston)</p>

	SEL: Relationship Skills: Collaborative problem-solving (Boston)
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Notes