

Handling Collection—Tree House Design Challenge — Starter examples

Items should suggest functional/structural concepts for students to apply to solution, rather than provide opportunity to handle materials that will be used in coming up with final solution. Our London team approved the items below and also suggested: A mini flash light; a bicycle bell, tiny paper cocktail umbrella, paper Chinese lantern that folds out, Jacobs' ladder toy, jump rope, Chinese padlock, modular ice cube tray, a FABRIC pencil case with zipper, a cup and ball game, birds nests, and shells.



Slotted and grooved construction sticks—suggest ways of connecting materials (assumes we will not provide these as materials for students to use); craft “railing” suggests alternatives to solid walls



Plastic Basket—suggest possibility of dome (when turned upside down) and permeable walls



Hinged, Hanging Picture Frame—suggest hanging as a strategy for parts of the tree house; hinges suggest how to have movable parts, such as doors, gates, trap doors



Blank craft gift boxes—Suggests how to stabilize forms; boxes with plastic “windows” suggest having windows in tree house



Woven decorated basket and woven bamboo placemat—Can roof or wall be woven? How should it be decorated? Placemats suggest how to make curved walls/surfaces



Embroidery loop— suggests screwing as a means of securing objects; tongue and groove construction (see plastic loop)



Nesting cookie cutters—suggests scale and thinking about fitting things inside one another (is tree house designed to scale?)



Blocks and wooden shapes—suggests how stabilize forms, need for flat, even base so that structure will not fall over



Cake Separator Plate—suggests need for flat surface to support structures



Craft box with lid—suggests enclosure with roof