

Build your own

Children's Play House

No.16

DO IT YOURSELF INSTRUCTION LEAFLET



"This brochure will give you a guide to building a Children's Play House. For all materials, tools and any further help or advice you may want, just come and see us at Home."



Get the Know-How



Build Your Own Children's Play House

Any handy person can build this Children's Play House. It is simple to construct and can be built to any reasonable size, depending on the area you have available and the ages of your children. For the kids, it can become their own private place where they can play out their own imagination. And importantly for you, you'll know just where they are - safe in your own backyard.

Just follow the simple instructions in this HOME Timber & Hardware do-it-yourself leaflet and build your children a 'home' of their own!

Before you start, please read all the instructions carefully and then order the materials required at your local HOME Timber & Hardware store. No specific sizes are provided as it really depends on the ages of your children and the amount of space you have in the backyard. As a guide, for small children, a floor area 2400mm long x 1800mm wide would be big enough, with an entry door height of 1500mm x 750mm wide. The window could be 750mm high x 600mm wide.

MATERIALS AND PARTS LIST

General framing	150x50, 100x50, 75x50 and 50x50mm KD Pine.
Sub-floor frame	100 x 50mm Treated Pine.
Cladding	Select from timber weatherboards in Baltic Pine or Western Red Cedar or cement sheet planks such as Hardiplank. You could also use exterior grade plywood sheeting such as Shadowlad.
Window and door frame	100 x 50mm KD Pine.
Upper Deck Railing	Top rail 75 x 50mm with 50 x 25mm uprights (or balusters) - use dressed Treated Pine or Cypress Pine.
Ladder	30mm diameter hardwood dowel. 75 x 50mm KD Pine (knot-free)
Corner angles	Timber or metal, to suit type of exterior cladding selected.
Floor covering (inside and balcony decking)	Select from timber deck boards or flat sheeting in 12mm timber or 6mm cement sheet - see the huge range at any HOME Timber & Hardware store.

Also used:

- Galvanised hoop iron
- 100 and 75mm bullet head galvanised nails
- Processed nails
- Flat head galvanised nails
- 100 x 100mm metal angle flashing
- 8mm galvanised coach bolts
- Bugle batten plated screws

TOOLS REQUIRED

For this Play House project, you will need:-

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Handsaw | Power saw |
| Electric drill and bits | Wood chisel |
| Carpenters hammer | Carpenters pencil |
| Nail punch | Spirit level |
| Shifting spanner | Square |
| Tape measure | Sandpaper and paint brush/roller |



LOCATION

You can choose to install a concrete slab beforehand or use the simple timber floor as shown in our plan. If the ground tends to be wet, we suggest you install a concrete slab, however high, dry ground would make a timber floor preferable.



FLOOR

Cut the two (2) long bearers to the length of the Play House you have decided on, then cut enough cross bearers (to suit 450mm spacing) for the width of the Play House, using the 100 x 50mm treated pine timber. Nail the cross bearers in between the two (2) long bearers leaving the end flush. Don't forget to use 100mm bullet head galvanised nails, as these won't rust.

Check that the frame is square by measuring across the diagonal corners, moving the frame until it is square. Now cover the frame by nailing down your selection of floor covering, which will provide a firm base for you to work on while building the rest of the Play House. When you have selected where you want to locate the structure, roughly level the ground area and place the completed floor frame, checking that it is level and packing under the frame where necessary.

FRAMES

The two (2) end frames are identical. Work out the dimensions to suit, including the slope angle of the roof section that should give a balcony railing height of not less than 750mm. These important end walls require studs (uprights) at no more than 450mm centre to centre spacing, nailed to a bottom wall plate and a top plate. The bottom plate length will be the width of the floor and the top plate will be long enough to extend beyond the front wall for the balcony (we suggest 450mm for the balcony). You can make this wider if you would like to have a larger balcony area. Make sure that you make the stud lengths different to give the roof slope you have earlier decided on.

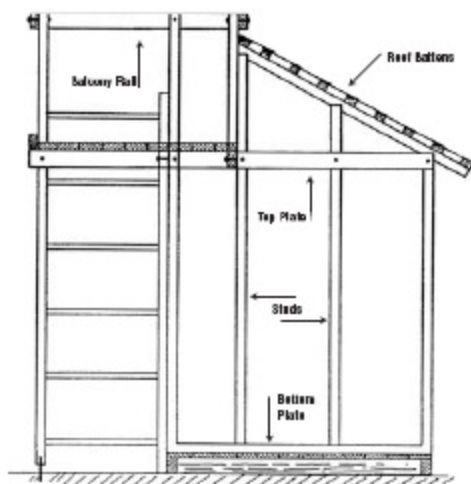
It will be easier to work on the framing for both end walls at the same time by assembling each one in exactly the same way. Make the front and rear wall frames in the same way, allowing for the door and window openings where indicated, using the 100x50mm timber to form the opening frames, including the bottom of the door opening to act as a sill.

In order to ensure that the completed Play House will be very stable, the rear wall frame and the two (2) end frames must have a cross brace fitted diagonally across each frame. It is easier to use galvanised hoop iron strip which is nailed to each stud and top/bottom plates using processed nails; these are better than clouts because they are coated with a special glue which sets with the friction of nailing into the timber. Start by bending about 50mm over the top of the top plate, then continue across the outside of the frame studs to the opposite bottom corner, nailing at each crossing.

Stand up the rear wall frame and one (1) end frame and nail through the bottom plate into the floor frame using 100mm



bullet head galvanised nails and also at the corner studs. Use a spirit level to check the frames are vertical in both directions. Then, stand up and nail the other end and front frames in position. Check again with the spirit level and adjust as necessary with packing pieces. Nail a temporary brace across two (2) corners of the frames to hold everything square.



ROOF

Next, cut enough rafters for the roof to suit 450mm max. spacing and long enough to give approx. 300mm overhang for the rear eave. Cut an angled notch (or birdsmouth) in each end rafter at each stud position to give the roof slope, then notch the intermediate rafters at the top ends and over the side wall frame. You will need to cut a length of 150 x 50mm timber to join the two (2) end wall frames at the top to carry the roof rafters. Now nail securely in position with 75mm bullet head nails. Measure and trim the rafters to give an even overhang.

Next, cut to length and nail in place roof battens from 50x50mm timber across the top of the rafters at the recommended spacing for the type of roof covering you have decided to use.

LINING

It would be an idea at this stage to cut and fit the internal lining while you still have reasonable access to the inside of the Play House. There are a number of choices for lining inside, such as masonite, tongue and groove panelling, plywood and fibre cement sheeting or you may choose not to have any internal lining.

BALCONY AND CORNER POSTS

Now measure, cut and fit four (4) support posts for the balcony down to ground level as shown on the drawing, plus three (3) shorter uprights to carry a horizontal piece to support the handrail above the top of the roof (to deter children from climbing out onto the roof). The two (2) outer or corner posts should be a durable in-ground timber species such as Cypress Pine and cut long enough to go about 300mm into the ground; sit them on about 50mm of crushed rock or bricks in the bottom of the hole. Check that the four (4) posts are all at the same height (trim as necessary) then cut and fit the handrails from 75x50mm Cypress Pine timber. Use 8mm dia. galvanised coach bolts for all these outside joints instead of nails as it will make a much stronger job.

Cut two (2) pieces of 150x50mm timber the length of the Play House and fix in position to carry the balcony floor across the rear. Cut and nail another piece of 150 x 50 timber between these bearers at the mid-point. This will provide support for the balcony flooring material.

LADDER

For the sides of the ladder, select two pieces of 75 x 50mm pine that are knot-free. Cut the two pieces to a length that allows the ladder to abut the edge of the balcony of the Play House.

The rungs of the ladder are made from 30mm round hardwood dowel cut to a length that suits the width of ladder required. Drill holes approx. halfway through the two side pieces 300mm apart to fit the rungs. Make sure the rungs fit tightly into the holes and secure the rungs with flat head galvanised nails. Fix the ladder to the balcony of the Play House by drilling a hole through the top of both sides and using treated pine screws, attach the ladder to the edge of the balcony.

BALCONY FLOOR/HANDRAILS

Cut and fit the material you have selected for the floor, making sure that you smooth the edge at the ladder entry end. Now, cut the 75x50mm timber for the handrails at lengths to suit and bolt to the top of the uprights with 8mm dia. galvanised coach bolts. Finally, mark out the vertical baluster positions at 150mm centres along both the top handrail and the bottom floor rail and measure the length required. Using the 50x50mm pine timber, cut the number required and fix in position on the inside of the horizontal rails using 75mm countersunk 'bugle batten' plated screws. Make sure that the spacing between the balusters is not more than 125mm. Leave the area above the ladder as this is the access point to the balcony.



EXTERIOR CLADDING

Now you can start to clad the exterior of the Play House with the particular cladding material you have earlier selected. Use the recommended corner jointing material for the cladding being used. For example, if you will be using timber weatherboards, use a square timber stop at the corners to butt the weatherboards to. If using fibre cement sheeting or planks, use the special metal corners available in accordance with manufacturer's directions. If you are using weatherboards, start from the bottom up and work from a left hand corner, using galvanised flat head nails for fixing.

Lastly, install the selected roof covering material to the battens previously nailed in place. Make sure that the covering extends about 25mm past the last batten at the bottom so that water won't run back onto the timber. You will need to then install some metal angle flashing (suggest 100x100mm) down each side of the roof and across the top at the balcony level. Make sure you don't leave any sharp edges for children to catch themselves on.

EXTERIOR FINISHING

Now to put the finishing touch to your new Children's Play House, smooth off any rough surfaces and edges. Apply a good quality exterior paint or stain either to suit your house colour scheme or with a selection of bright colours to provide an attractive feature for your children to play in. Visit your local HOME Timber & Hardware store and select from the wide range of paints and stains available.



Tips from the Trade

- Any timber that butts up against other sections of timber on the outside should be given a coat of paint or stain before fixing in position to protect the end grain.
- Measuring is easy, but materials are expensive, so double check all measurements and markings before cutting a piece of timber.
- When you need several pieces of timber all the same length, you can save time by clamping them together, measure once and cut all together. Even if you have been a fraction out in measuring, at least all pieces will be the same length.
- When fixing outside, you should always use galvanised nails/bolts as standard bright steel nails etc. will rust and cause unsightly stains on the timber-very hard to remove or hide.
- Always wear goggles for eye protection and ear muffs when using power tools.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when applying exterior stains and paints - short cutting will result in an inferior job.

IMPORTANT: This instruction leaflet has been produced to provide basic information and our experienced staff are available to answer any questions you may have. However, the use of this information is on the understanding that Home Timber and Hardware (including its author, owners and proprietors) disclaim all and any liability for any damages or other amounts found to be recoverable resulting from such information, even when given negligently or attributable directly or consequentially upon any act or omission of Home Timber and Hardware. Should Home Timber and Hardware be found liable in any way for the information provided, the user acknowledges and agrees that such liability shall be deemed null and void. The user is advised to call in a qualified tradesman, such as an electrician or plumber, where expert services are required.

WARNING: there may be by-laws or regulations of councils or statutory bodies that need to be fulfilled in the leaflet.

Your local Home Store is:

