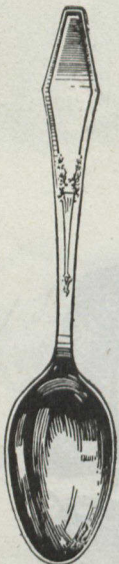


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Inexpensive Outdoor Toys

And How To Make Them

By H. KAUFMAN

WHAT is the greatest attraction that toys have for children? Novelty, of course. And what could be more novel than a collapsible playhouse such as is illustrated on this page or the decorative sand bags that take but a short time to make? Neither of these toys are expensive and both can easily be made at home. They will appeal to every little girl and will help her to spend many pleasant hours out of doors during the spring and summer.

Every little miss likes to play at keeping house. Given a house of her very own she will keep herself amused for hours at a time and will, at the same time, develop a sense of neatness and housewifeliness which will stand her in good stead later in life.

The two views of the playhouse shown here are exceedingly simple and for the father or big brother who is at all handy with carpenter's tools, the making of the house is not at all a difficult matter. The house illustrated is made in four sections, each measuring 4½ by 5½ feet.

To form the framework for each piece four 1½-inch posts of seasoned wood are required. When these are set together plaster boards are nailed to them. This completed, three of these sections are joined to one another with two pair of hinges for each. The fourth piece is joined in the same manner at one side, but is closed by connecting hooks over screws as shown in illustration No. 2. Provision is then made for the three windows and the door which furnish light and entrance for the little house. They may be cut any size desired, and may be finished with either white or gray "trim." The windows, of course, should be fitted with glass, and a door, equipped with brass hinges, knob, door plate and keyhole is hung in the door frame to give Miss Little Girl's house a substantial and attractive appearance.

Once the framework is put together and set up, the problem of finishing the house is a simple matter. The exterior of the house herewith shown was papered with tiled brick paper, such as is used for bathrooms and kitchens. This has a high luster and is waterproof. The framework was painted light gray, and the door stained mahogany. The upper portion of the interior was decorated with a frieze of Mother Goose characters with a tiny border of roses and forget-me-nots underneath. However, a brightly coloured flowered paper, or a light plain paper to which cut out birds, butterflies, familiar animals or flowers may be applied, will make a less expensive and quite as pleasing a finish. The lower part of the walls were hung with tan cottage paper.

The choice of curtains and furniture

for the playhouse is a matter of individual taste. Simple scrim curtains with a stenciled border of red flowers and green leaves were used in the model house. They were designed to match the colour of the figures that ranged along the walls. The furniture chosen was in gray enamel. However, by building the house and leaving it empty or nearly so, the child has the opportunity of using her own imagination to make it habitable.

As you will observe this house has neither roof nor floor, so when it is not in use it can be picked up and put out of the way by the simple expedient of folding it flat and resting it against a wall, where it will take up no more room than an ordinary screen. If desired, a tarpaulin may be fitted over the top to provide shelter from sun and rain, though this is by no means essential since the house can be moved very easily.

Sand Bags

SOMETIMES, the little miss will tire of her housekeeping and mother will have to devise some new means for amusing her. If mother's time and means are both limited, she can find no better suggestion for keeping her little girl out of doors than these directions for making sand bags. With an hour's work, and odds and ends of material, such as we all have about the house, she can make her little daughter a very pretty

gift. Illustrations of these bags are shown on page 30.

To make the sand bags cut two pieces of plain material six inches wide by nine inches long, rounding off the corners. The line drawings shown on page 30 are the exact size of the figures used on the bags herewith illustrated and are designed to be transferred by pencil and carbon paper to the material used for the bag. After the design is traced, outline with embroidery cotton. For the soldier boy, khaki is used for all the outlining except the face which is in flesh pink; the shoes are done in black. The dog is outlined in black with white around the eyes and red for the tongue. Many other figures of children, animals, etc., may be outlined in the same manner, in colours that are appropriate.

Any stout, plain material may be used for these bags, but preferably natural colour linen, as it will show the soil the least. Of muslin make an inside bag, cut one-fourth of an inch smaller than the outside cover. Fill this with a mixture of two-thirds sawdust and one-third sand. This gives the correct weight for throwing, the sawdust supplying the bulk. Fill the bags about three-fourths full. The inner bags should then be closed securely, slipped into their embroidered covers, and sewed down firmly.

(Continued on page 30)



Playhouse Anyone Can Make



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