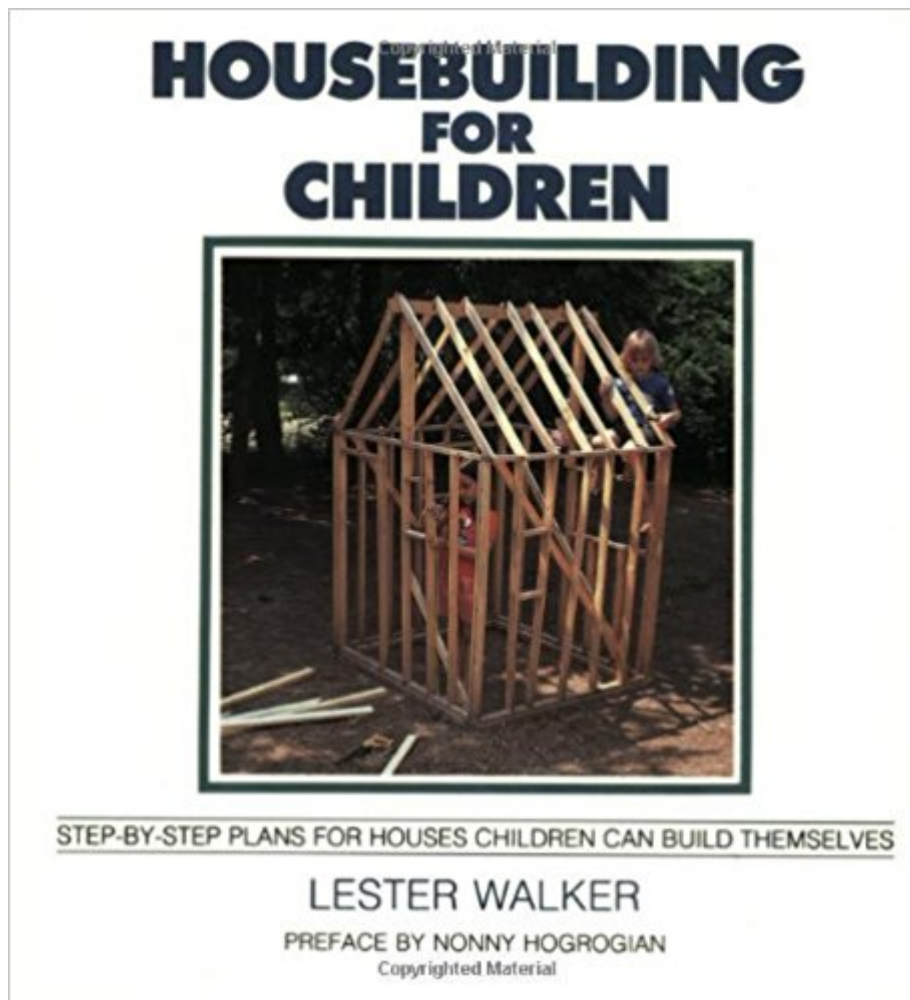




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# Housebuilding For Children: Step-by-Step Plans For Houses Children Can Build Themselves



## Synopsis

A favorite of kids and parents since the 1970s, *Housebuilding for Children* offers step-by-step illustrated instructions for building six different houses with a description of the necessary tools and equipment. Youngsters will learn the joy of buying and using their own tools, setting up their own workshop, and building any one of seven wonderful houses. More than 100 black-and-white photographs and 150 illustrations and diagrams teach children and parents how to set up a workshop, get started using basic carpentry tools, and finally building their very own wood-frame house, factory-built house, glass house, post-and-beam house, junkyard house, tree house, and now an A-frame house. This inimitable classic is sure to bring hours of learning and fun to an entirely new generation of parents and children. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

## Book Information

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Overlook Books; Reprint edition (October 28, 1988)

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Shipping Weight: 13.1 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

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Grade Level: 1 and up

## Customer Reviews

Good basic carpentry instructions (if sometimes a little too basic), helpful illustrations that take me back to my 70s childhood. The houses are very basic, and definitely not intended to last very long. However, with a little research and/or know-how they are easy to modify and make more durable - an educational project in itself, though more adult involvement may be needed with inexperienced younger kids. I, my husband and our 7 year old just built a version of the balloon frame house in this book. The framing went very well, though the size of nail recommended by the book split the furring strips every time, so we ended up pre-drilling every hole. The book recommends making the walls

for this and other projects out of a wallboard called homasote. Probably because it's easy for kids to saw. However it's also not all that strong for siding purposes, it soaks water and falls apart pretty quickly. We replaced it with sheet siding (we also considered treated plywood), and we also cut triangular pieces for the roof peaks (left open in the original - our weather isn't good enough for that). We made the house footprint 6x4 instead of 4x4 and are glad we did - 4x4 would have been pretty tiny inside! We're putting a tar paper and shingle roof on it as well, not homasote. Despite all those caveats, I never would have tried to build a frame playhouse without this book, my kid has had a fantastic time working on it with us, and we all feel very confident about taking on more building and carpentry projects after this. So again, I think it's a good starting place, backed up with some extra research into building techniques and materials.

I purchased this book years ago when my children (who now have children of their own) were young. We built a playhouse using instructions from this book. What a great sense of accomplishment they (I have 4 children) had when they finished their own little house! Now that I think of it, my children were 2, 4, 6 and 8 years old when we made the house, with lots of help from both mom and dad (they are now 26, 28, 30 and 32! How time flies!). I got this copy to give to one of my children so he can make something neat with his children! Great book!

i noticed the emphasis on hand-powered tools- good idea. they'll learn to measure and make angles, all on a kid's level. bonus- i have no idea how to build a house, either, and i'll learn along with them. thought- use scrap wood for practice.

Inspiring!!!

When I was a kid this was basic knowledge. If our children are to survive, they need to know more of these skills. Technology yes - technology AND life skills - heck yes.

My grandson opened the book and said "Wow." He is 9 years old and wants to know how to build a house. Apparently it was a hit. Thank you. Also, it was in excellent condition.

This book gave great ideas to my three grandchildren. Am hoping to help with one of the small projects when I visit the next time.

I went looking for treehouse books, finding many that were more complicated than the deck and took more materials! This one was perfect - simple, nonthreatening, and useful for teaching building skills to the kids. We decided we could use the other chapters to elaborate on their simple treehouse design. My husband bought materials Saturday morning, and by Saturday evening our two kids were stomping on the sturdy platform. Sunday evening we had a treehouse. I know I could not say the same for any other treehouse book I had seen.

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