

## Home Building-Related Crafts Activity

**Age level:** K – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

**Time required:** 1/2 to 1 1/2 hours

**Adult supervision required:** Yes, general skills

### Introduction

There are many products available off the shelf to provide enjoyable activities related to home building for Kindergarten through Third Grade children. The availability of these products will vary by area. A few are described below.

### Material List

- House building kits
- Prefab birdhouses
- Slotted craft sticks
- Acrylic paints
- Colored markers
- Paint brushes/applicators

### House Building Kit Example

The Hello Hobby “Build Your Own Wooden House” kit is available at WalMart.com and some retail outlets. The parts and instructions are shown in Figure 1. The assembly process is displayed in Figure 2 through 12.



Figure 1. Kit contents

To begin, push out the base from the wood board and open the slot holes in the base. Push out the other major parts from the other wood boards and open those slot holes. Refer to the picture that came with the kit to determine what to push out on the windows and doors. Consider leaving the door pieces in place and painting the solid door.

Install the front wall (Figure 2).

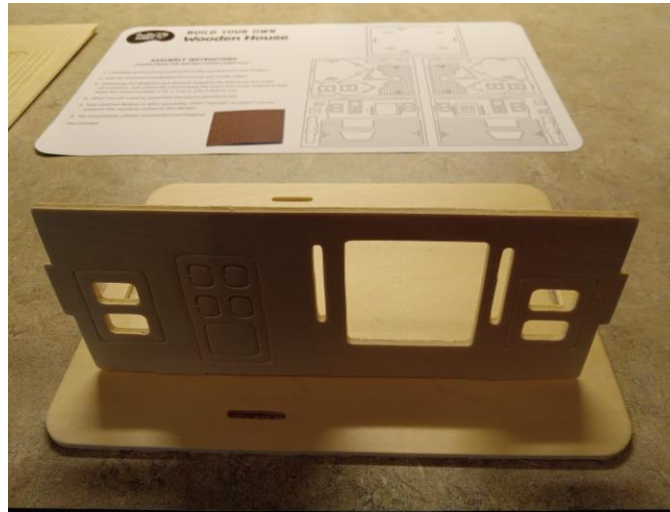


Figure 2. Install the front wall

Add the left side wall (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Add a side wall

Place the other two walls (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Finish assembling 4 walls

Place the bump-outs for the front gable (Figures 5 and 6).



Figure 5. Add bump-out for front gable

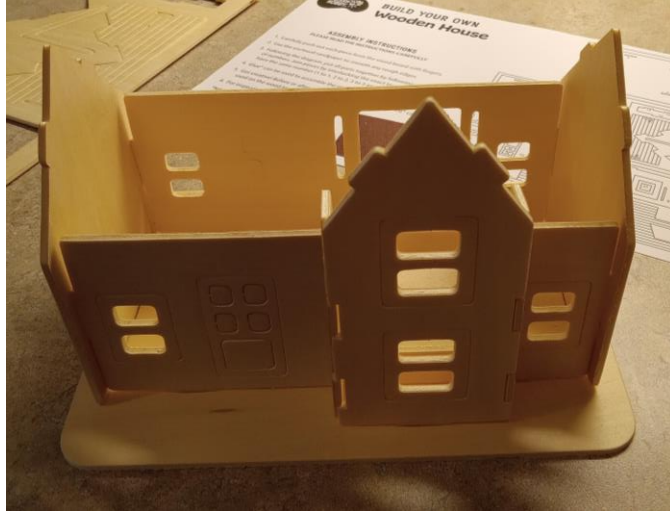


Figure 6. Install front gable

Repeat for the back side (Figure 7).



Figure 7. Repeat bump-out and gable for back side



Install the panels for the main roof (Figure 8).

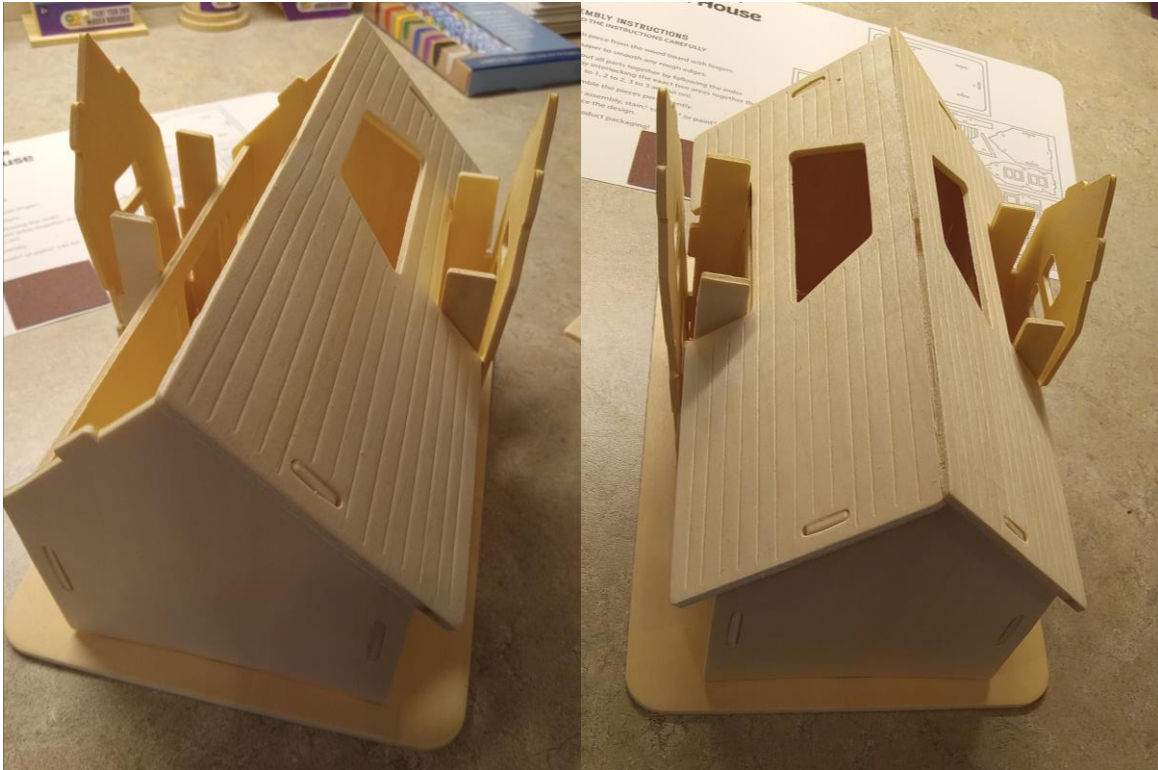


Figure 8. Install main roof panels

Complete the roof (Figure 9).



Figure 9. Complete the roof

Glue the gable-end trim on the front and back doors (Figure 10). The adult supervisor may wish to use a hot glue gun to speed the process.



Figure 10. Glue gable-end trim, both sides

Glue the five chimney pieces together and place on the roof (Figure 11).



Figure 11. Place chimney

Figure 12 shows the trim and chimney pieces before gluing. Children can paint the house after completion or paint the components before assembly.

**Pro Tip:** Flour and salt dough from the Tile Coaster activity can be colored with food coloring and used to landscape around the completed house.

**Option:** Place the house on a sheet of cardboard or poster board and add driveway, sidewalk, patio, or other features.



Figure 12. Finish gluing trim and use paints to finish the house

### **Prefab Birdhouses**

Small prefabricated models of houses can be purchased in many craft departments. Figure 13 shows some inexpensive samples sold under the Go Create trade mark. These are appropriate for children 4 years old and over. After removing the front label, they can paint or decorate the house. Other materials such as moss, pine needles, acorns, colored leaves, raffia ribbon, etc. could be glued on.



Figure 13. Small, inexpensive, paintable birdhouses (suitable for indoor display only)

## Slotted Craft Sticks

Craft sticks are available with a series of precut grooves to allow the assembly of stable structures without glue. The package shown in Figure 14 comes with instructions for assembling a barn.



Figure 14. Wooden Skill Sticks

The structure of the roof, shown in Figure 15 along with the partially completed structure, was made from a quarter of a manila folder.



Figure 15. Barn under construction



Figure 16 shows the barn structure before roof placement.

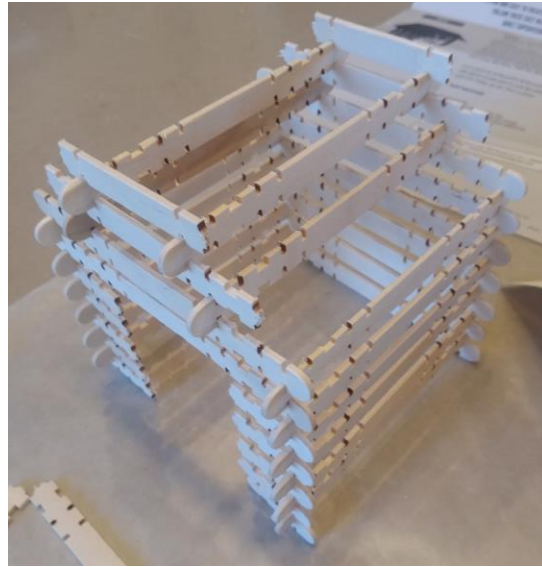


Figure 16. Barn structure before roof placement

Painted craft sticks are glued to the manila folder roof sheathing (Figure 17).

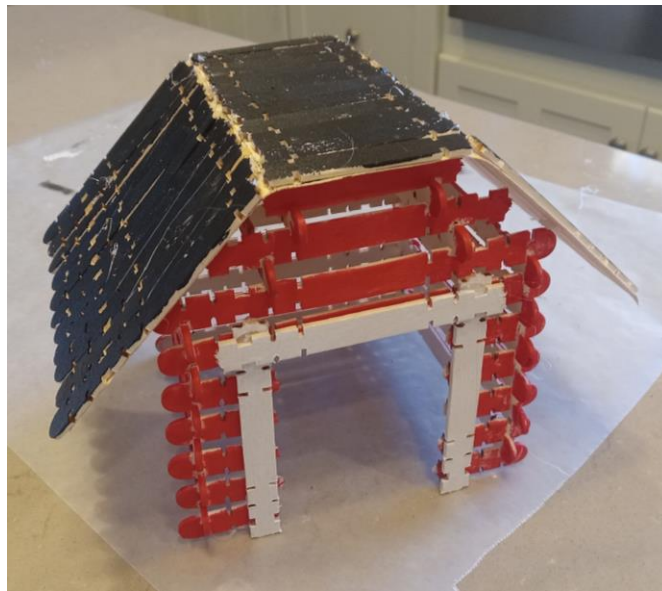


Figure 17. Complete barn