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# Y3 & 4 ENGINEERING ZONE TISDALL'S CANOPY

A guide by Rebecca Russell  
Financially supported by The BST

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# Outlast Interlocking Building Blocks

The Outlast play system encourages creative play and child directed discovery. Boys will strengthen a variety of skills through this play experience: Maths, Science, Construction and engineering, kinaesthetic, social skills, team work, cooperation, language and creative imagination skills.

The Outlast blocks and ramps are designed to be used outside all year round and do not require covered storage.



# In assembly we will be introducing the Engineering zone to the boys



- ❑ The BST have kindly bought the boys two school sets, totalling 54 pieces of Outlast blocks
- ❑ Introduce the Tisdall's Engineering Zone
- ❑ All weather engineering blocks
- ❑ How might we use the blocks?
- ❑ Teamwork
- ❑ Where should we use them?
- ❑ How should we store them?
- ❑ How do we clear them away/tidy up?
- ❑ Who gets to use them?
- ❑ What might the rules be? (Take notes from boys)
- ❑ Nash's staff on duty
- ❑ Discuss the rota system
- ❑ Taster sessions over next 2 days
- ❑ Rota starts on Monday 29th April



# Vocabulary

- Engineer
- Structural Engineer
- Architect
- Teamwork
- Resilience
- Supporting
- Balance
- Stability
- Bridging
- Bracing
- Propping
- Gravity



# More Vocabulary

- Sequence
- Height
- Weight
- Estimate
- 3D shapes
- Forces, push, pull
- Sharing
- Collaborate
- Communicate
- Negotiate
- Consider
- Planning
- Evaluate

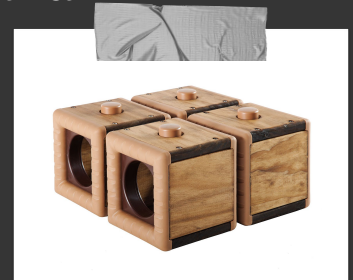
## Recommended use:

- ❑ Outlast blocks and ramps are intended to let children experiment with balance and stability, and learn to manage risk.
- ❑ Ensure adequate free space around the engineering zone. Unstable structures may topple and could cause injury. Supervision needed.
- ❑ Children should not build structures above their shoulder height.
- ❑ Children must not be allowed to climb on structures with a height of 60cm or more.
- ❑ Make sure blocks are linked together.
- ❑ Long blocks and planks are heavy, encourage teamwork to prevent injury.
- ❑ Staff need to familiarise themselves with these blocks



# Construction & Maintenance

- ❑ The wooden components are manufactured from long lasting acetylated wood and finished with a nontoxic stain.
- ❑ All edges and corners are rounded for safety and ease of cleaning.
- ❑ Stainless steel hardware is used throughout and all end grain is protected by UV resistant plastic guards formulated to ensure long life in outdoor environments.
- ❑ Can be left outside all year round.
- ❑ May darken with mildew, to remove scrub with a cleaning agent.
- ❑ Periodically inspect for splinters, broken or loose parts, if found remove from area and hand to DM, NC or RR.
- ❑ Mud and dirt can be removed with scrub brush and water.





## Using the blocks

- ❑ Give children time to explore the blocks, they will most likely play with individual blocks before building larger structures.
- ❑ Let children take the lead in determining how to use the blocks, they can find out themselves what guidelines are needed, this can be fed back to RR each week.
- ❑ Blocks interlock, children will need to practice how the holes and buttons align to make them lock together.



## Using the blocks

- ❑ Try not to over narrate, instead ask open ended questions such as 'What else do you need?' 'Where could you find that?' allowing children ownership of their play.
- ❑ The ramps lend themselves to rolling their tennis balls down
- ❑ Eventually we will have a whiteboard for boys to communicate/design ideas
- ❑ Feel free to take photos and put on twitter via Jo Lock or save to share with parents.
- ❑ A laminated book full of photos could be useful too.