



**8** THE ROOF is made of overlapping pieces of plywood that serve as large shingles. If the ends are uneven, they can be trimmed with a jigsaw.



**9** CUT THE DOOR and window openings with a jigsaw. The corners are marked by driving a nail through from the inside.



**10** NAIL ON TRIM around the door and window openings after it has been cut to fit. We tacked on the trim temporarily, then removed it for painting.

dows and doors. Treated wood is often somewhat damp, so give it a few days of good dry weather before you paint.

Now you can paint (hooray!). Remove and label all the trim before painting. Paint the roof before the sides, so you won't drip (or bump into) the wet paint. A roller with an extension handle will make those flat surfaces go quickly.

For a more cheerful playhouse, it's worth painting the inside walls and ceiling white. For all the painting, use an exterior primer, then two coats of paint. We used a latex

floor paint for the roof because it had a good deep color.

Nail and screw the trim back on, touch up the paint, and your playhouse is ready for the kids to move in.

### Gussying It Up

There are lots of improvements you can make to our basic design. Here are some ideas:

1 Make the paint on your playhouse last longer by putting a partially buried concrete block under each corner, enough to raise the playhouse a couple of inches off the ground. Just don't raise the front more than a few inches, or the step will be too high.

1 Put on a shingle roof. If you want to do this, use 5/8-inch or 3/4-inch plywood for the roof, so the tips of your roofing nails don't stick through on the underside, a real hazard for the kids.

1 Add curtains, or even mosquito screens, to the windows. If attached with Velcro or screwed-on strips of wood, the screens are easy to remove and repair.

1 Embellish with fancier trim. Use a jigsaw to cut your own gingerbread design, or buy some commercially made trim.

1 Add a light. You probably don't want to mess with buried electrical wiring, but battery-powered closet lights or camping lanterns work fine.

And most important, have fun!

## Fig. C Trim Details

