

Ever since Joyce had seen the movie "Swiss Family Robinson", she had wanted a tree house. "Swiss Family Robinson" was a movie about a family. The family members were shipwrecked on a desert island. The family built houses up in trees so they could stay away from dangers on the ground. They had ladders to climb up to the houses. Joyce liked that idea. It would be nice to have a tree house. She could get away from her pesky brother. In a tree house she might not hear her mom calling her in to do chores. The more Joyce thought about the idea, the better she liked it.

That evening, Joyce talked to her dad about building a tree house. "Why do you want a tree house?" Dad wanted to know. "So I can play in it," Joyce said. She sure was not going to tell Dad the real reason she wanted a tree house. After all, he might not like to hear that she wanted a tree house so she wouldn't be bothered. "You go find a tree that will be strong enough and I will build a tree house for you," Dad said.

Joyce went outside and looked around for the perfect tree. Some of the trees were too small. Some of the trees had weak branches. At last, at the end of the yard, Joyce found the perfect tree for her tree house. The tree was big and sturdy. It had strong branches that were wide enough to hold a small house.

Joyce went back into the house and told Dad about the tree. Dad followed Joyce outside and looked at the tree. He agreed that the tree was perfect for a tree house.

On Saturday, Dad began to build the tree house. He worked until he had a little house made out of wood. There was a space left for a window and a door. On Sunday, Dad added a roof to the house. He

placed the ladder against the tree so Joyce could get up to her tree house. Joyce was so happy to see her tree house up in the tree! She gave her dad a big hug and said, "Thank you!"

All that week, Joyce worked to fix up her tree house. She added curtains to the window. She put a rug on the floor. Joyce sat in her tree house listening to the wind in the branches. Up here in the tree house she could not hear her brother or mother calling her. Joyce knew that she would enjoy her summer up in her tree house.

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