Structures: Year 4
Shell Structures using CAD

Key vocabulary

Shell structure, three-dimensional (3-D) shape, net, cube, cuboid, prism, vertex, edge, face, length, width, breadth, capacity

Marking out, scoring, shaping, tabs, adhesives, joining, assemble, accuracy, material, stiff, strong, reduce, reuse, recycle, corrugating, ribbing, laminating

Font, lettering, text, graphics, decision, evaluating, design brief design criteria, innovative, prototype

Key learning in design and technology

Prior learning

- Experience of using different joining, cutting and finishing techniques with paper and card.
- A basic understanding of 2-D and 3-D shapes in mathematics and the physical properties and everyday uses of materials in science.
- Familiarity with general purpose software that can be used to draw accurate shapes, such as Microsoft Word, or simple computer-aided design (CAD), such as 2D Primary by Techsoft.

Designing

- Generate realistic ideas and design criteria collaboratively through discussion, focusing on the needs of the user and the functional and aesthetic purposes of the product.
- Develop ideas through the analysis of existing shell structures and use computer-aided design to model and communicate ideas.

Making

- Plan the order of the main stages of making.
- Select and use appropriate tools and software to measure, mark out, cut, score, shape and assemble with some accuracy.
- Explain their choice of materials according to functional properties and aesthetic qualities.
- Use computer-generated finishing techniques suitable for the product they are creating.

Evaluating

- Investigate and evaluate a range of shell structures that have been made from a range of materials, components and techniques
- Test and evaluate their own products against design criteria and the intended user and purpose.

Technical knowledge and understanding

- Develop and use knowledge of nets of cubes and cuboids and, where appropriate, more complex 3D shapes
- Develop and use knowledge of how to construct strong, stiff shell structures.
- Know and use technical vocabulary relevant to the project.

Investigative and Evaluative Activities (IEAs)

- Children investigate a collection of different shell structures including packaging. Use questions to develop children's understanding e.g. *What is the purpose of the shell structure – protecting, containing, presenting? What material is it made from? How has it been constructed? Are the materials recyclable or reusable? How has it been stiffened i.e. folded, corrugated, ribbed, laminated? What size/shape/colour is it? What information does it show and why? How attractive is the design?*
- Children take a small package apart identifying and discussing parts of a net including the tabs e.g. *How are different faces of the package arranged? How are the tabs used to join the 'free' edges of the net?*
- Evaluate existing products to determine which designs children think are the most effective. Provide opportunities for the children to judge the suitability of the shell structures for their intended users and purposes. Discuss graphics including colours/impact of style/logo/size of font e.g. *What do you prefer and why? What style of graphics and lettering might we want to include in our product to meet users' preferences and its intended purpose? Which packaging might be the best for…?*

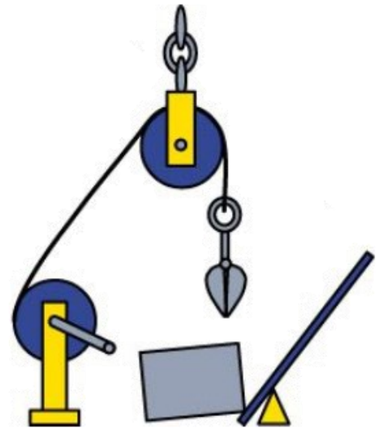
Focused Tasks (FTs)

- Demonstrate simple drawing software such as Techsoft 2D Primary or Microsoft Word. Ask children to explore the interface and drawing tools to practise drawing and manipulating shapes such as rectangles, squares, ellipses, trapezoids and triangles.
- Ask children to use the software to open existing drawings including nets and to draw nets of their own, using gridlines and pre-shaped tools.
- Let the children explore and be guided to try out different fill and font tools to become familiar with the graphic design aspects of the available software to achieve the desired appearance of their products.
- Practise making nets out of card, joining flat faces with masking tape to create 3-D shapes. Experiment with assembling pre-drawn nets in numerous ways using scoring, cutting and assembling techniques. Allow children to construct a simple box and show how a window can be cut out and acetate sheet added.

Design, Make and Evaluate Assignment (DMEA)

- Develop a design brief with the children within a context which is authentic and meaningful.
- Discuss the uses and purposes of their shell structure e.g. *What does the product need to do? Who is it aimed at? How will the purpose and user affect your design decisions?* Agree on design criteria that can be used to guide the development and evaluation of children's products *e.g. How will we know that we have designed and made successful products?*
- Ask the children to develop a design using computer-aided design (CAD) software to create nets, addressing the needs of the user and the purpose.
- Using computer-aided design (CAD) software ask the children to print out their nets to develop prototypes in order to evaluate and refine their ideas e.g. *What will you need to include in your design? How can you improve it? What materials will you use? How will you make sure your product works well and has the right appearance?*
- Ask children to identify the main stages of making and the appropriate tools and skills they learnt through focused tasks. Encourage the children to work with accuracy, using their computer-aided design (CAD) skills as appropriate.
- Evaluate throughout and the final products against the intended purpose and with the intended user, where safe and practical, drawing on the design criteria previously agreed.

Mechanical systems: Year 4
Pneumatics



Key vocabulary

Components, fixing, attaching, tubing, syringe, plunger, split pin, paper fastener

Pneumatic system, input movement, process, output movement, control, compression, pressure, inflate, deflate, pump, seal, air-tight

Linear, rotary, oscillating, reciprocating

User, purpose, function, prototype, design criteria, innovative, appealing, design brief, research, evaluate, ideas, constraints, investigate

Key learning in design and technology

Prior learning

- Explored simple mechanisms, such as sliders and levers, and simple structures.
- Learnt how materials can be joined to allow movement.
- Joined and combined materials using simple tools and techniques.

Designing

- Generate realistic and appropriate ideas and their own design criteria through discussion, focusing on the needs of the user.
- Use annotated sketches and prototypes to develop, model and communicate ideas.

Making

- Order the main stages of making.
- Select from and use appropriate tools with some accuracy to cut and join materials and components such as tubing, syringes and balloons.
- Select from and use finishing techniques suitable for the product they are creating.

Evaluating

- Investigate and analyse books, videos and products with pneumatic mechanisms.
- Evaluate their own products and ideas against criteria and user needs, as they design and make.

Technical knowledge and understanding

- Understand and use pneumatic mechanisms.
- Know and use technical vocabulary relevant to the project.

Investigative and Evaluative Activities (IEAs)

- Children investigate, analyse and evaluate familiar objects that use air to make them work e.g. bicycle pump, balloon, inflatable swimming aids, foot pump for inflating an air bed. *What does the air do? How has it been used in the design of these products? How can air be used to move heavy objects?*
- Construct a simple pneumatic system by joining a balloon to 5mm tubing and then to a washing-up liquid bottle. *What happens to the air when you squeeze the bottle? What happens when you let go? Can you lift a soft toy or a note pad using a balloon?*
- Demonstrate lifting an object and ask the children to think about ways in which this might be used in a product. *Who might it be for? What is its purpose? What part moved and how did it move? What materials have been used? How effective do you think it is and why? What else could move?*
- Demonstrate a range of pneumatic mechanisms using prepared teaching aids including two syringes joined by plastic tubing; three syringes connected using a T-connector and using different sized syringes. Ask the children: *What happens when the plunger of one syringe is pressed in? Why do the syringes move at different speeds?* Note: take care as the syringe may come out with force. Discuss why, when pressing a large syringe, it can take time and feel ‘squishy’ before the smaller syringe is moved.

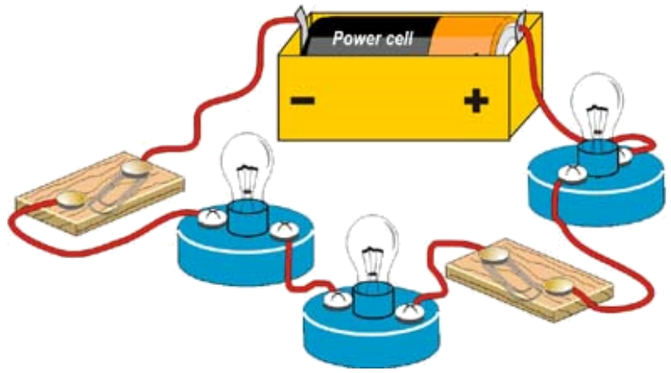
Focused Tasks (FTs)

- Demonstrate how to assemble the systems using syringes, tubing, balloons and plastic bottles. Introduce ways in which pneumatic systems can be used to operate levers.
- Demonstrate the correct and accurate use of measuring, marking out, cutting, joining and finishing skills and techniques.
- Provide the materials and ask the children to try out and draw the three systems they have been shown: a) Balloon connected to a washing-up liquid bottle. *What happens when you squeeze the bottle? What happens when you let go?* b) Two syringes of the same size connected together. *What happens when you press the plunger of one syringe down? How far does the other syringe move?* c) Two syringes of different sizes connected together. *How far do these syringes move when pressed?*

Design, Make and Evaluate Assignment (DMEA)

- Develop a design brief with the children within a context which is authentic and meaningful.
- Discuss with children the purpose of the products they will be designing and making and who the products will be for. Ask the children to generate a range of ideas, encouraging creative responses. Agree on design criteria that can be used to guide the development and evaluation of the children’s products.
- Using annotated sketches and prototypes, ask the children to develop, model and communicate their ideas.
- Ask the children to consider the main stages in making before assembling high quality products, drawing on the knowledge, understanding and skills learnt through IEAs and FTs.
- Evaluate the final products against the intended purpose and with the intended user, where safe and practical, drawing on the design criteria previously agreed.

Electrical systems: Year 4
Simple programming and control and control



Key vocabulary

Series circuit, fault, connection, toggle switch, push-to-make switch, push-to-break switch, battery, battery holder, light emitting diode (LED), bulb, bulb holder, USB cable, wire, insulator, conductor, crocodile clip

Control, program, system, input device, output device, process

User, purpose, function, prototype, design criteria, innovative, appealing, design brief

Key learning in design and technology

Prior learning

- Constructed a simple series electrical circuit, using bulbs, batteries, switches and buzzers.
- Cut and joined a variety of construction materials, such as wood, card, plastic, reclaimed materials and glue.

Designing

- Gather information about users' needs and wants, and develop design criteria to inform the design of products that are fit for purpose.
- Generate, develop, model and communicate realistic ideas through discussion and, as appropriate, annotated sketches, cross-sectional and exploded diagrams.

Making

- Order the main stages of making.
- Select from and use tools and equipment to cut, shape, join and finish with some accuracy.
- Connect simple electrical components and a battery in a series circuit to achieve a functional outcome.
- Program a standalone control box, microcontroller or interface box to enhance the way the product works.

Evaluating

- Investigate and analyse a range of existing battery-powered products, including pre-programmed and programmable products.
- Evaluate their ideas and products against their own design criteria and identify the strengths and areas for improvement in their work.

Technical knowledge and understanding

- Understand and use computing to program and control products containing electrical systems, such as series circuits incorporating switches, bulbs and buzzers.
- Know and use technical vocabulary relevant to the project.

Investigative and Evaluative Activities (IEAs)

- Discuss, investigate and, where practical and safe, disassemble different examples of relevant battery-powered products, including some programmable and programmed commercially available products e.g. *Where and why the products are used? How do they work? What are the key features and components? How does the switch work? Is the product manually controlled or controlled by a computer? If it is controlled by a computer how does that improve the way the product works? What materials have been used and why? How is it suited to its intended user and purpose?*
- Ask children to investigate examples of switches, including those which are commercially available, which work in different ways e.g. push-to-make, push-to-break, toggle switch. Let the children use them in simple circuits e.g. *How might different types of switches be useful in different types of products? How might different output devices be used?*

Focused Tasks (FTs)

- Recap with the children how to make manually controlled, simple series circuits with batteries and different types of switches, bulbs, motors and buzzers. Discuss which of the components in the circuit are input devices e.g. switches, and which are output devices e.g. bulbs, motors and buzzers.
- Recap with the children how to make manually controlled, simple series circuits with batteries and different types of switches, bulbs, motors and buzzers. Discuss which of the components in the circuit are input devices e.g. switches, and which are output devices e.g. bulbs, motors and buzzers.
- Demonstrate how to find a fault in a simple circuit and correct it, giving pupils opportunities to practise.
- Demonstrate and ask children to practise the use of a simple computer control program using an interface box, microcontroller or standalone control box to control output devices, e.g. bulbs and buzzers, using a repeating sequence of instructions.
- Ask the children to make a variety of switches by using simple classroom materials e.g. card, corrugated plastic, aluminium foil, paper fasteners and paper clips. Encourage children to make switches that operate in different ways e.g. when you press them, when you turn them, when you push them from side to side. Ask the children to test their switches in a simple series circuit.
- Teach children how to avoid making short circuits.
- Demonstrate how to find a fault in a simple circuit and correct it, giving pupils opportunities to practise.
- Demonstrate and ask children to practise the use of a simple computer control program using an interface box, microcontroller or standalone control box to control output devices, e.g. bulbs and buzzers, using a repeating sequence of instructions.
- Ask the children to make a variety of switches by using simple classroom materials e.g. card, corrugated plastic, aluminium foil, paper fasteners and paper clips. Encourage children to make switches that operate in different ways e.g. when you press them, when you turn them, when you push them from side to side. Ask the children to test their switches in a simple series circuit.

Design, Make and Evaluate Assignment (DMEA)

- Develop a design brief with the children within a context which is authentic and meaningful.
- Discuss with children the purpose of the battery-powered, programmable products that they will be designing and making and how they will work more effectively for the intended user than those that are manually controlled. Consider who they will be for and how they address a problem or need.
- Ask the children to generate a range of ideas, encouraging realistic responses. Agree on design criteria that can be used to guide the development and evaluation of the children's products, including safety features.
- Using annotated sketches, cross-sectional and exploded diagrams, as appropriate, ask the children to develop, model and communicate their ideas.
- Ask the children to consider the main stages in making and testing before assembling high quality products, drawing on the knowledge, understanding and skills learnt through IEAs and FTs.
- Have the children write, test and debug programs that will control the electrical product they have made for a clearly defined purpose e.g. bulb on a nightlight switching off after a period of time when the user has gone to sleep or LEDs flashing on and off to illuminate a sign in a shop window.
- Evaluate throughout and the final products against the intended purpose and, where safe and practical, with the intended user, drawing on the design criteria previously agreed.