

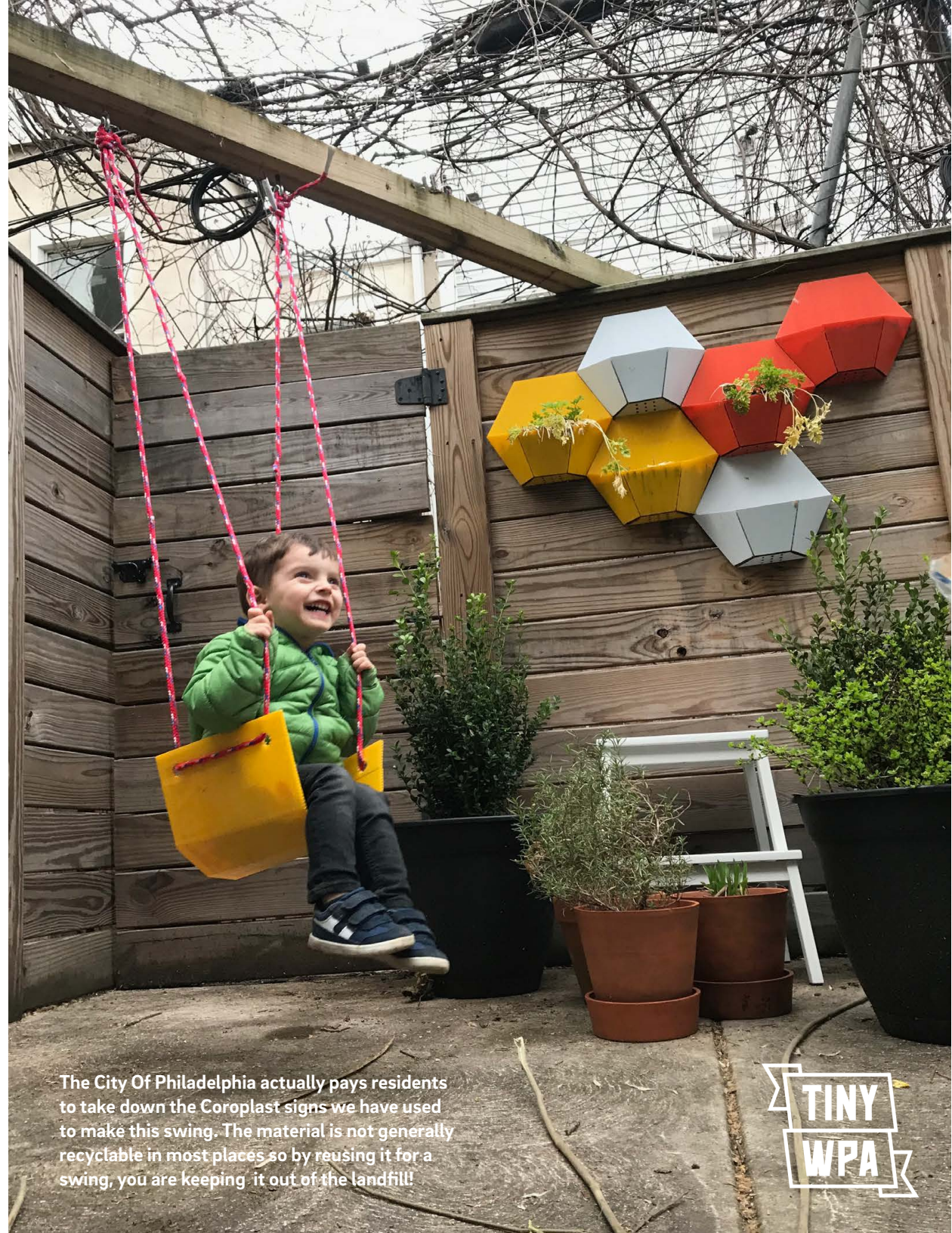
# BUILD YOUR OWN SWING

No matter where we have worked in the world, people young and old love to swing. This isn't too surprising as aside from bouncing on your parents' bed, it is the closest that we as young people can come to the exhilarating feeling of flight. The effort of swinging is downright satisfying, indeed the 'fun' makes us forget that we are actually using our entire body to swing.

Happily, it's easier and more affordable than you may think to make a swing for a young person. In fact those sometimes offensive and always illegal (in Philadelphia) plastic signs that are used for advertising different services make great (free) swing seats for kids ages 2-6 years old. The material used to make these and many lawn signs is called 'Coroplast' and is essentially a plastic version of cardboard.

TIME 30 MINUTES

COST \$5-20



The City Of Philadelphia actually pays residents to take down the Coroplast signs we have used to make this swing. The material is not generally recyclable in most places so by reusing it for a swing, you are keeping it out of the landfill!



# What do you need?



## MATERIALS

- 1 12" x 18" reclaimed coroplast sign w/corrugation in the short direction
- 2 12' of 3/8" to 1/2" rope

### Optional

- 2 4 1/2" x 3/8" eyelet bolts
- 1 packing or duct tape
- 1 2x4, 2x6, 4x4 or even a sturdy branch

## TOOLS

- 1 tape measurer or ruler
- 1 pencil
- 1 something to make holes (drill, X-Acto or sharp scissors)

### Optional

- 1 drill with 1/2" bit (for rope) and 3/8" bit (for eyelets)

## A PLACE FOR YOUR SWING

While it is possible for you to build a stand for your DIY swing, there are at least three easy options that you can use that will have your young person swinging in no-time:

### The Corner Of A Wooden Fence

Many a rowhome's backyard wood fence is strong enough to support a swing for a young person. Simply screw down a 2x4, 2x6, 4x4 or even a sturdy branch diagonally across the corner of your fence (as is shown in the picture) and voila, you have a swing!

### A Sturdy Tree Branch

Make sure you (an adult) test the branch first by vigorously hanging from the branch!

### A Ceiling In Your Home

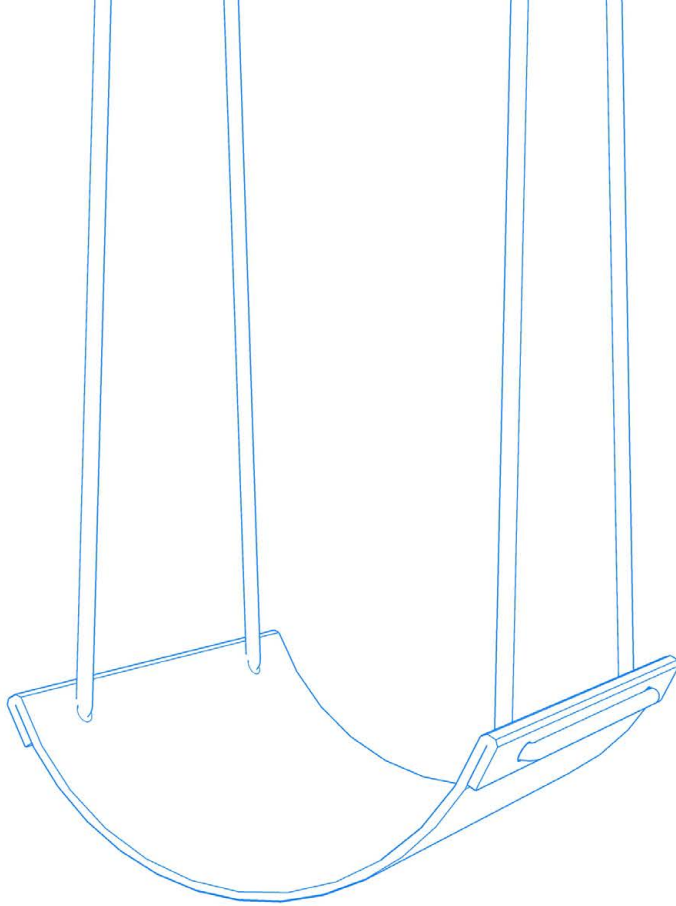
The joists (structure behind/holding up your ceiling) can generally easily support the weight of a young person. There are plenty of guides online that will show you how to install a swing in your ceiling and even make it easily removable/ installable so that the swing doesn't take over the room all of the time.

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# Here's how you do it!



## TIPS!

### Can I Make The Seat Larger?

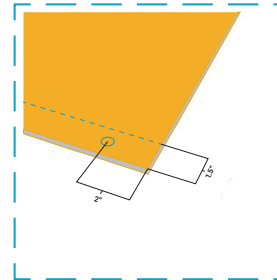
The two standard sizes for reclaimed coroplast signs are 12"x18" and 18"x24". We chose to stick with the smaller size because its narrower width helps ensure that larger humans, that the swing cannot support, are not able to use it. Is it possible to make a larger, stronger one? Yes but it requires a completely different design than the one show here.

### Always Test It First!

While this swing is not designed to be used by adults it should actually be able to support an adult weighing 120-140 lbs. If you can fully stand on the swing with one foot, it's a pretty good bet that it is safe for a 2-6 year old.

### What Knot Should You Use?

The knot that you use to hang your swing is largely determined by 'where' and 'how' you are hanging it. If you are using eye hooks inside or outside as we have done, your best choices are a bowline or a figure eight knot. If you are wrapping the rope around a branch or piece of wood you can use these knots as well but we generally recommend looking online for how-to's. There are some great guides on YouTube for tying these and other knots. Make sure treat the two loose ends of rope on each



Mark your sign for folding and holes



Fold the edges of your sign



Use pencil to punch starter holes



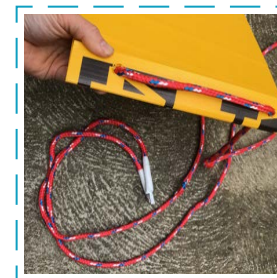
Drill or cut holes for your rope



Fold sign every 2.5" to create curve



Tape or melt rope ends



Thread rope through your sign like in the picture



Hang swing



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