

EXAMPLE DESIGN BRIEF: DISABLED PERSON'S BATH HOIST

Disabled people often need hoists and supports specially designed for particular situations, such as getting in and out of the bath.

ACTIVITY

Think about the particular needs of some disabled people getting in, out, over and under physical obstacles in their daily lives. What lifting gear might help them? Can you think of your own idea for a structure that might support them? If possible, interview a disabled person about this.

Possible requirements:

1. A hoist which the disabled person can use to pull himself or herself up out of a wheelchair on a sling, over the bath and down into it.
 2. The hoist will have to be strong so it can carry a heavy person's weight absolutely safely.
 3. The structure supporting the hoist might be movable, free-standing or it might be hinged to the wall so it can swing out. It cannot use the roof.
 4. You should measure the dimensions of a bath and make sure that the device does not get in the way of other things in the bathroom like cupboard doors.
- Make sketches for your hoist.
 - Consider the problem of strength.
 - What load might be needed in a supporting strut or tie?

Could you build a model of your structure and investigate this?