

WOODWORK HEALTH AND SAFETY CHECK LIST

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SUPERVISION

Ensure all children are given proper instruction on the correct use of all tools. Remind them that tools are for a purpose and are not toys. Draw attention to the sharp points of tools and keep a list of who has had the introduction to the four main tools (saw, hammer, screwdriver, hand drill)

Adult: child ratios 1:3. Sawing 1:1

Children must be monitored at all times

Be aware of any children with additional needs as some children will require 1:1 ratio at all times

AREA

Keep the ground in the woodworking area clear.

Limit the number of children at the workbench to 3 so that they are not working too closely to one another. Allow enough space not to endanger others.

Woodwork bench to be installed in a protected space to minimise traffic and other distractions.

When sawing 1:1 ratio – ensure that there are no other children watching from in front of the sawing area. Wood should always be clamped in a vice when being sawn. Staff member should ensure that the vice is clamped tightly. The Japanese saw should be held with two hands. After use the saw should be immediately stored out of reach.

If tools need to be transported they should be held by the child's side.

Never run with tools.

Caution when children are using vices, clamps and pliers make sure that fingers do not get pinched. Ensure fingers kept away from clamping area. Close vices when not in use.

Inspect tools regularly to ensure that they are in a good state of repair and replace when worn e.g. a hammer with a loose head or a dull saw are more likely to cause injury than a sharp as children will require more effort.

Keep tools tidy – return to storage boxes. Tools must not be removed from woodworking area.

CAUTION

Remove or make safe any protruding nails from children's work before it goes home.

Don't blow sawdust – likely to end up in the eye.

Do not carry nails or screws in your mouth.

WOOD

Avoid hardwoods. They are too difficult for young children to work with and there is a possibility that nails could rebound.

Avoid wood treated with chemical preservatives.

Check wood for splinters. Rough wood can initially be sanded. Sand if the edge after sawing is rough. Splinters can be a source of blood poisoning.

Do not store scrap wood with any nails sticking out.

FIRST AID

Ensure first aid kit is well stocked, available and know where it is kept.

SAFETY GLASSES

Safety glasses should be worn at all times by both children and practitioners. It is very important to model good practice.

When working with tools, equipment and materials children should learn about potential hazards, the associated risks and risk control. They should know how to manage their working environment to ensure their own and others safety