

## Risk Benefit Assessment - Tools

Subject of Risk Assessment:	Use of Tools
Description of activities, location and equipment	<p>Bladed tools for example knives, scissors, axes, loppers, saws, potato peelers, wallpaper strippers, de-barking tools or secateurs. Hammering tools such as mallets, hammers and sledge hammers. Use of power drills and screwdrivers. Use of handcraft or DIY tools such as screwdrivers and spanners. Clamping tools such as workbenches, ratchet straps and clamps. Digging tools such as spades, forks, hole digger, breaking bar. Ladders, stepladders or stepping stools.</p>
Description of example activities	<p>Hammering pegs into the ground.                      Peeling bark, cutting, sawing, whittling and snipping twigs, sticks or small branches.                      Cutting and mixing food.                      Chopping, sawing or snapping wood.                      Digging of sand, soil and rubble, removal and moving of rubble in buckets, bags or wheelbarrows.                      Drilling small holes in wood with power tool and/or hand tool                      Hammering nails into wood and screwing into wood.                      Moving, transporting, supporting and connecting the various parts and finished products made (this includes items such as bird boxes, raised beds, small plant containers and excludes structural or safety items such as handrails)                      Installing of bird boxes, using ladder to access upto a height of 2.5m for children.</p>
Our approach to risk	<p>Cambusbarron Village Nursery recognises that all risks cannot be reduced to nil, therefore this risk assessment prioritises the significant risks. Significant risks are those which pose risk of serious injury, chronic injury, disability or death, or risks that are overly common in interrupting normal work and play. For all activities, our staff will dynamically assesses risks and put in place control measures and record as required, but always within agreed and recorded RBAs.</p> <p>Concerns, changes in risk management practice or minor injuries that are deemed by staff to be significant should be reported to the Village Nursery manager.</p> <p>This RBA should be read in conjunction with Cambusbarron Village Nursery's Health and Safety Policy and other relevant Risk Benefit Assessments.</p>

Benefits

Developing hand/eye co ordination and skills with tools.  
 Handling sharp tools responsibly, and using them in a practical and positive way.  
 Learning responsibility for yourself and tools, including risk assessing and making good decisions.  
 Seeing knives as tools, not weapons.  
 Self esteem and confidence will grow though taking park in using tools that require trust and responsibility.  
 Being able to build objects or make tools.  
 Understand natural resources and materials.

Who will be at risk

Children  
 Parents  
 Staff  
 Members of the public

Local factors affecting risks or controls

Abilities and experience of attending children

**Potential Hazards:**

**Precautions and Controls used to reduce the likelihood of the risk occurring or the severity of the risk**

\*All staff members hold a current first aid qualification and a first aid kit is always available.  
 \*All staff involved in tool use have confirmed that they have read the CVN and WPS Handbooks, Fire, Ropes and Tool use guidance, health and safety policy, risk benefit analyses and risk assessments and understand the need to comply with the guidance therein.

<p>Cuts through skin, penetrating injuries, minor amputations (fingers and toes) from bladed tools. Particularly when working on hard materials, knotted wood and fine (small) objects such as twig ends. Increased hazard of cuts or penetrations to torso or where major blood vessels are.</p> <p>Being struck by heavy and hard object (all hammers, provided and scavenged).</p>	<p>Good management and judgement of competence, particularly regarding behaviour, age and attitude.              Restricted access to tools and monitoring of use.              No tools left lying around on session – either they are being used, or stored.              Good storage of tools – in boxes or bags or other when being used for a session (See Fire, Ropes and Tools Guidelines).              Awareness of (it is an offence under statute to have an article with a blade or sharp point in a public place)              Group briefing, demonstration and instruction as needed. Monitoring of use by participants.              Safe working area and working space (Blood bubble)              Children only use sharp tools on a child/adult ratio of 1:1.              Staff raise awareness of splinters/skelves on wood (eg not running fingers down rough wood edges).              Ladders always installed and ‘footed’ by staff, children to work at a maximum height of 2.5m or staff at 5m.              Heavy loads, or repeated carrying of moderate loads to be restricted in line with good manual handling practice (see Health &amp; Safety</p>
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Dropping items on feet, hands or other body parts that injure through blunt trauma or sharp edge - particularly being struck on head or face with any tool, through movement including that of others, recoil or slipping in use

Crush injuries from heavy objects or clamping.

Falls from ladders or height, leading to injury

policy). Staff model safe lifting and manual handling to children maintaining awareness of abilities and conditions. Staff model awareness of appropriate footwear for tasks (eg wellies provide little protection against sharp or heavy objects). Staff model using more hands or lower weights, use of wheelbarrows or similar to restrict loading on persons, particularly children and young people. Gloves to be worn when judged appropriate (no glove on tooled hand, close fitting glove on non-tooled hand)

## Precedents and Comparisons

Forest School practice encourages and manages tool use in outdoor settings with a variety of groups. The mission of the Early Years Woodwork Association is to promote Woodwork in early childhood education and many early years settings successfully use real tools to promote creativity and exploration.

Cooking and everyday tasks involve tool use, including blades and striking objects.

We have used information from

Grounds for Learning (risk benefit assessments)

Education Scotland (information and videos - eg Grounds for Learning - Managing risk in the early years)

Play Safety Forum (Managing Risk in Play Provision)

The Care Inspectorate (My World Outdoors, Out to Play, Positive Approach to Risk in Play)

Woodwork in the early years : Pete Moorhouse

The Early Years Woodwork Association

Learning through Woodwork: Introducing Creative Woodwork in the Early Years

to inform our assessment process

## Judgement

The severity of the risks is quite high, but good group management and systems will reduce the likelihood of severe injury.

Using tools is a lifelong skill that most adults use daily. It is also proven that using hazardous objects as tools can reduce their use as weapons. In light of this, tool use is an important learning experience for all ages.