

## Risk-Benefit Assessment for Tool Use (Outdoors)

Subject of risk assessment:	Use of tools with groups of children		
Brief description of activity, location, feature, activity and equipment used.	<p>Bladed tools such as knives, scissors, axes, loppers, saws, potato peelers, debarking tools or secateurs.</p> <p>Hammering tools such as mallets, hammers and sledge hammers.</p> <p>Use of power drills and screwdrivers.</p> <p>Use of handcraft or DIY tools such as screwdrivers, spanners, hand drills and palm drills..</p> <p>Clamping tools such as workbenches, ratchet straps and clamps.</p> <p>Digging tools such as spades, forks, hole digger, breaking bar.</p> <p>Ladders, step ladders or stepping stools.</p>		
Job title and name of person making assessment	Amanda Lloyd Purvis	Signature of person making assessment	

Date of Assessment	02.10.2024	Review Date	01.09.2025
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### **Risk Management Statement**

Farnham Forest School recognises that not all risks can 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 our staff and clients normal work.

For all activities, Farnham Forest School staff will dynamically assess risks and put in place control measures and record as required, but always within agreed and recorded Risk-Benefit Assessments (RBAs).

Concerns, changes in risk management practice or minor injuries that are seen by staff to be significant should be reported to the Practitioner who has signed off this RBA.

*This RBA should be read in conjunction with Farnham Forest School's Health and Safety Policy, other relevant Risk Benefit Assessments and Policies (as appropriate).*

Activity or feature:	<p>Hammering pegs into the ground.</p> <p>Peeling bark, cutting, sawing, whittling and snipping twigs or small branches.</p> <p>Cutting and mixing food.</p> <p>Chopping, sawing or snapping wood.</p>
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	<p>Digging of soil and rubble, removal and moving of rubble in buckets, bags or wheelbarrows.</p> <p>Drilling small holes in wood with power tool and hand tool Hammering nails into wood and screwing into wood.</p> <p>Moving, transporting, supporting and connecting the various parts and finished products made. This includes bird or bat boxes, small plant containers or similar.</p>
How will participants benefit?	<p>Developing Hand/eye coordination and skills with tools.</p> <p>Handling sharp tools responsibly, and using them in a practical and positive way.</p> <p>Learning responsibility for yourself and tools, including risk assessing and making good decisions.</p> <p>Seeing knives as tools, not weapons.</p> <p>Self esteem and confidence will grow though taking part in using tools that require trust and responsibility.</p> <p>Being able to build objects or make tools.</p> <p>Understand natural resources and materials.</p>
Who will be at risk?	<p>Farnham Forest School Staff</p> <p>Participants (children and adults)</p>

Possible hazards and risks:	<p>Bladed tools – cuts through skin, penetrating injuries, minor amputations (fingers and toes). Particularly when working on hard materials, knotted wood and fine (small) objects such as twig ends. Increased hazard of cuts or penetrations to the torso or where major blood vessels are.</p> <p>Being struck by heavy and hard objects (all hammers, provided and scavenged).</p> <p>Dropping items on feet, hands or other body parts that injure through blunt trauma or sharp edge.</p> <p>Particularly being struck on head or face with any tool, through movement including that of others, recoil or slipping in use.</p> <p>Crush injuries from heavy objects or clamping.</p> <p>Power tools moving suddenly, leading to cuts or incisions.</p> <p>Falls from ladders or height, leading to injury.</p>
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<p>Precautions and control measures to reduce the risk severity or likelihood:</p>	<p>Good management and judgement of competence, particularly regarding behaviour, age and attitude.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Group briefing, demonstration and instruction as needed, particularly keeping behind the cutting edge. Monitoring of use by participants.</p> <p>Safe working area and working space.</p> <p>Children under 6 only use sharp tools on a child/adult ratio of 1:1.</p> <p>Briefing of splinter risk and not running fingers down wood edges.</p> <p>Ladders to be installed and ‘footed’ by Farnham Forest School staff, children to work at a maximum height of 2.5m, staff at a maximum of 5m.</p> <p>Heavy loads, or repeated carrying of moderate loads to be restricted in line with good manual handling practice. Using more hands or lower weights, use of wheelbarrows or similar to restrict loading on persons, particularly children and young people.</p> <p>First aid kit carried and first aider present.</p>
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	<p>Good hand washing and hygiene standards enforced by LtL staff, especially if taking a break, consuming food or finishing activity. Tools should also be clean and rust free to prevent bacteria build up.</p> <p>Gloves to be worn when judged appropriate.</p> <p>All Farnham Forest School staff leading sessions will hold a relevant emergency first aid qualification, appropriate to the training being led, and carry a first aid kit.</p>
Precedents or comparisons:	<p>Managing Risk in Play Provision encourages responsible tool use in play.</p> <p>Forest Schools encourage and manage tool use in outdoor settings with a variety of groups.</p> <p>Schools have used workshops and technical subjects have allowed tool use for many decades.</p> <p>Cooking and everyday tasks involve tool use, including blades and striking objects.</p>
Judgement:	<p>The severity of the risks is quite high, but good group management and systems will reduce the likelihood of severe injury.</p> <p>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.</p>