

School:

Woodwork and Construction projects

Risk Assessment

Adapt this to respond to your setting environment

Date of Assessment: Assessed by:

| What is being assessed | What hazards may be present | Who is exposed to the hazard | What degree of injury could be reasonably expected | What precautions have been put in place to reduce the risk of injury | What likelihood is there of risk still occurring | What is the risk rating |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------------|
| woodwork | Injury to eye | all | high | Safety glasses – always wear glasses. I recommend using safety glasses at all times as a matter of course – having children learn about safety culture and looking after themselves is an important lesson. Children are much more comfortable in safety glasses rather than chunky goggles. | low | low |
| Woodwork | General | All | Low | Ensure that the floor is clear of obstacles that could cause tripping. Ensure adequate lighting. Ensure children wearing suitable clothing for example remove gloves and scarves. Children to wear safety glasses at all times. | Low | Low |
| Woodwork | General | All | Medium | Ensure children cannot be easily distracted. This is an activity that requires focus and concentration and they need to be looking at what they are working on when using tools. Do not continue until distraction stopped or removed. | Low | Medium |
| Treated wood | Toxicity | All | Low | Avoid using painted or treated timber. If in doubt the wood should not be used | Low | Low |
| Using off-cuts and recycled wood | Splinters Nails | All | Low | Instruction on how to handle wood. Use of sandpaper on rough edges Ensure all nails removed beforehand. Very rough and splintery wood should not be used. Splinters can be a source of blood poisoning. | Medium | Low |
| Hammer | Impact to fingers/hand | All | Medium | Instruction on how to use hammer safely. Dangers clearly explained. Close adult supervision. 1:1 at first then max 1:3. Eliminate distractions | Medium | Low |

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| Using Saw | Cut to hand or finger | All | Medium | Instruction on how to use saw and supervised 1:1 at all times. Sawing – Ensure no children are watching from in front of the sawing area - practitioner to stand in this area to prevent children getting close to saw. Child sawing with Japanese saw to hold the saw with two hands or with western saw – with one hand and hand not holding the saw to be well away from the saw and holding the bench. After being used - saw to immediately be put out of reach. Wood always clamped when being sawn | Low | Medium |
| Using clamps and workbenches | Pinching fingers, bruising | All | Low | Adult to supervise when the children are turning screw. Ensure children working at the correct height. Caution when children are using vices, clamps and pliers that fingers to not get pinched. Ensure fingers kept away from clamping area. | Low | Low |
| Dust | Dust - inhaled and eyes | All | Low | Sawing and sanding to take place outdoors or in well ventilated room. Any significant amount of cutting/ sanding to be done outdoors | low | Low |
| Nails | Pierce skin Swallow | All | Low | Any protruding nails to be made safe or removed. Nails must not be carried in mouth. | Low | Low |
| Misc Tools – wrench, spanners, screwdrivers, hand drills | Impact injuries Cuts bruises etc | All | Medium | Children to be given clear instruction for safe use. Children initially to be supervised 1;1. Ensure tools well maintained and only for appropriate job. Limited access according to group/setting. | Medium | Medium |
| Power tools | Electric shock Flying debris Tripping on cables | All | High | Not for children's use. Children to be fenced off at a safe distance and monitored by another staff member. Cables secured and out of reach of children. Use of cordless power tools where possible to avoid cables and 240V. | Low | Medium |
| Heavy Items | Muscle injuries | All | Low | Large pieces of wood must be handled by supervising adult or by two people using safe handling techniques | Low | Low |
| Introduction | bruising | All | Medium | Ensure 1:3 ratio for introduction of tools. Woodworking is an activity that should always be monitored. Ratios can be relaxed once children are familiar with the tools with the exception of sawing which remains 1:1. | Low | Low |
| Plywood | splinters | all | medium | Avoid plywood. It is too hard for young children and there is a | Low | Low |

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| | | | | possibility that nails could rebound. Plywood also splinters badly | | |
| MDF | dust | all | medium | Caution with MDF. Do not cut MDF in school due to excessive levels of dust. | low | low |
| Battery screwdriver | Injury to fingers | All | Low | Clear instructions for safe use and then only used with close adult supervision. Eliminate distractions. | Low | Low |

Be aware of individual identified children that need to be closely monitored - some children will need additional support perhaps having a 1:1 ratio at all times.

Know who is appointed first aider and location first aid kit.

Additional Note on Safety Glasses:

Safety glasses should be worn at all times – by children and practitioners. It is important we model good practice. With hammering, there is a very small risk a nail could rebound. This risk of impact with the eye is eliminated by wearing glasses. This can happen particularly with hard woods. Opinion has been divided on safety glasses. In many countries they are not used with hand tools and advice from PPE professionals is divided in the UK. I believe because of this small risk is unwise not to wear eye protection. If we believe young children are old enough to do woodwork then they are also old enough to learn about looking after and taking responsibility for their bodies with appropriate safety protection. Children also like the role play aspect of wearing eye protection and feeling the part. Goggles are more problematic as children often find them uncomfortable and are distracted by wearing them, but with safety glasses they quickly forget they have them on and the biggest problem is reminding them to take them off at the end of a session!