



Design & Technology
All ages

A little whittling

- Tool work



Overview

The use of tools is an important life skill that can be introduced using peelers to whittle. This activity will develop hand eye coordination, fine and gross motor skills and the ability to manage risk.

Resources

- Peelers
- Sticks long enough to hold safely while whittling (preferably soft green wood e.g. willow without any knots)
- Craft materials to add to design e.g. coloured pens

Activity

It is important to ensure safety rules are followed to keep this activity safe and fun. See our tool work risk benefit assessment for further details.

1. Demonstrate correct usage to new learners including the following technique:
 - Store peelers securely in a designated place
 - Only ever pick up the peeler by its handle
 - Ensure you are seated or knelt in a stable position
 - Have at least an arm's length 'bubble' between participants
 - Hold the top end of the stick you are whittling and keep it away from your body
 - Point the stick downwards
 - Always push the peeler away from you
 - Look at what you are whittling – stop if you need to speak to someone
2. Allow everyone to practise the whittling technique.

3. Choose a simple woodwork project to complete and use additional materials to add to the design, e.g. an animal character, a seasonal decoration, a garden label peg etc. See the table below for ideas to use in conjunction with this activity to bridge the gap between the indoors and the outdoors for your pupils.

Suggested outcomes for learning and play

We understand you will tailor this activity to the learning needs of your pupils. Here are some of the learning outcomes and extension ideas that other practitioners have used this lesson idea to reach:

- To learn and practise a new skill safely

Subject	Topic	Ideas for further exploration
Literacy and language	Instructions	Write instructions or a safety guide for whittling
	Fiction writing	Whittle and create characters from a story book
Science	Materials	Explore suitability of different type of wood
Drama	Role play	Create wands to encourage imaginative play
Maths	Measurements	Accurately measure sticks pre and post whittling
	Number	Create skittles and explore number bonds
Technology	Food technology	Whittle toasting sticks to cook on a fire
	Design – den building	Create tent pegs to support den building and design



Learning through Landscapes

If you would like to develop your outdoor learning knowledge and skills, take a look at our range of training courses: l.tl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training