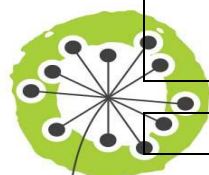


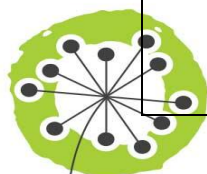
# Risk Benefit Assessment

## Tool Use with groups

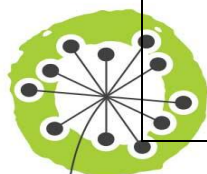
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|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Brief description of activity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bladed tools such as knives, scissors, axes, loppers, saws, potato peelers, wallpaper strippers, de-barking tools or secateurs.</li> <li>• Hammering tools such as mallets, hammers and sledge hammers.</li> <li>• Use of power drills and screwdrivers.</li> <li>• Use of handcraft or DIY tools such as screwdrivers and spanners.</li> <li>• Clamping tools such as workbenches, ratchet straps and clamps.</li> <li>• Digging tools such as spades, forks, hole digger, breaking bar.</li> <li>• Ladders, stepladders or stepping stools.</li> </ul>            |
| Location of activity          | Outdoors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Participants                  | Groups of staff or children                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Benefit of activity           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing Hand/eye coordination and skills with tools.</li> <li>• Handling sharp tools responsibly and using them in a practical and positive way.</li> <li>• Learning responsibility for yourself and tools, including risk assessing and making good decisions.</li> <li>• Seeing knives as tools, not weapons.</li> <li>• Self-esteem and confidence will grow though taking part in using tools that require trust and responsibility.</li> <li>• Being able to build objects or make tools.</li> <li>• Understand natural resources and materials.</li> </ul> |



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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Access to tools                                                                            | Access to equipment without knowledge of safe use | Tools stored and transported in lock-able tool box. Inventory of tools inside. Tools regularly checked and maintained. Broken equipment removed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Using a peeler                                                                             | Cut skin on fingers, stab leg.                    | Always move peeler away from the body, do not sit with legs open, place them together to the side, safety bubble – no one within arm's length of you, always peel away from you, only peel green wood.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Hammering pegs, nails                                                                      | Hit hand when hammering, miss hit                 | Always use tool in safety bubble, check area is safe before using, three gentle taps to start nail/peg. Introduce hammer with clear boundaries before us. Check tools back into safe space after use.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Digging of soil and rubble, removal and moving of rubble in buckets, bags or wheelbarrows. | Scratches and scrapes                             | Children are supported to <b>dig only within designated digging areas</b> , clearly marked and checked regularly.<br>Soil and rubble are <b>checked daily for sharp objects or hazardous materials</b> before play begins. Tools used for digging are <b>age-appropriate</b> , well maintained, and appropriate to the size and strength of the children.<br>Children are taught and reminded how to <b>lift and carry safely</b> , including using two hands and avoiding overfilling containers.<br>Buckets, bags, and wheelbarrows are <b>not overloaded</b> and are appropriate to children's abilities. Clear expectations are set around <b>walking while carrying items</b> and keeping wheelbarrows under control.<br>Adult supervision is present to <b>model safe use</b> , support turn-taking, and intervene when needed. Gloves are available for children who prefer them, and hands are washed thoroughly after digging activities.<br>The play area is kept as <b>clear and level as possible</b> to reduce trips and slips. |
| Drilling small holes in wood with power tool and hand tool                                 | Splinters and scratches/cuts                      | Wood used is soft, untreated, and free from nails, screws, splinters, or cracks.<br><br>Wood is secured using clamps or non-slip mats to prevent movement while drilling.<br><br>Clear boundaries are set so children stand at a safe distance when power tools are in use. Safety equipment is used as appropriate, such as adult eye protection and controlled positioning of hands.<br><br>Drilling takes place in a designated area, away from busy play spaces. Tools are stored securely and out of children's reach when not in use.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |



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| Hammering nails into wood and screwing into wood. | Hitting hammer on finger<br>Scratches / cuts from nails | <p>Where appropriate, nails may be partially started by an adult to reduce force needed and support success.</p> <p>Wood is placed on a stable surface or secured using clamps or non-slip mats to prevent movement.</p> <p>Children are shown how to hold tools correctly and reminded to keep fingers clear of striking areas.</p> <p>Clear rules are in place for safe spacing, ensuring children are not too close to one another while using tools.</p> <p>Adults model calm, controlled movements and intervene immediately if tools are used unsafely.</p> <p>Protective equipment is used where appropriate, such as safety goggles for adults and careful hand positioning for children.</p> <p>Tool use takes place in a designated area, away from busy play zones.</p> <p>Tools are counted, stored safely, and inaccessible to children when not in use.</p> <p>Children are supported to work at their own pace, promoting confidence, focus, and respect for tools rather than rushing.</p> |
| Installing of bird boxes, using a ladder          | Fall from height                                        | <p>Bird box installation is planned and risk assessed in advance, with consideration given to location, height, and ground conditions.</p> <p>Children and LtL staff may access ladders only up to a maximum height of 2.2 m.</p> <p>Children can access ladders on a 1:1 basis.</p> <p>Ladders used are appropriate for the task, well maintained, and checked before use.</p> <p>Ladders are placed on firm, level ground and secured or footed by another adult where required.</p> <p>Clear expectations are explained to children, including three points of contact, slow movement, and listening to adult instructions.</p> <p>Only one person uses the ladder at any one time.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |



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|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>Tools and bird boxes are passed by an adult, not carried while climbing.</p> <p>The area around the ladder is clearly marked and kept clear of other children.</p> <p>Children observe adult modelling of safe ladder use before taking part.</p> <p>Installation is stopped immediately if weather conditions make surfaces slippery or unsafe.</p> <p>Appropriate footwear is worn, and loose clothing is secured.</p> <p>Once installed, bird boxes are checked to ensure they are secure, stable, and positioned safely away from play routes.</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>In school 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>      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Evaluation                | <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. Considering this, tool use is an important learning experience for all ages.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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|-----------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|------|---------|
| Assessor        | Ali Aspin     | Signature | Ali Aspin | Date | 16/4/26 |
| Form Checked by | Emily Akerman | Signature | E.Akerman | Date | 16/4/26 |
| Review Date     | April 27      |           |           |      |         |