

A Little Whittling

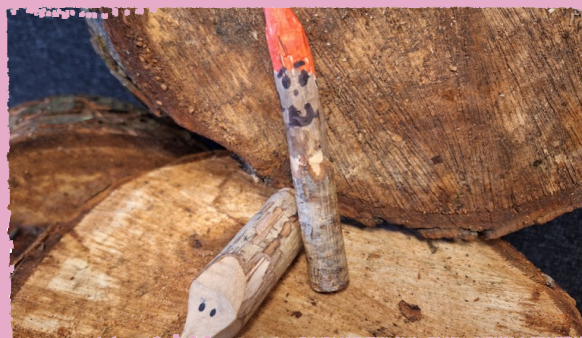


Overview

The use of tools is an important life skill that can be introduced using peelers to whittle wood. Children learn about managing risk through real-world experiences.

Activities

- Store peelers safely.
- Only ever touch the handle.
- Ensure users are kneeling or seated.
- Ensure an arm's length bubble between users.
- Point stick downwards and whittle away from the body, pushing the peeler away from the user and down the stick.
- Stop whittling if someone is speaking or attention is distracted.
- Keep peelers together when not in use.



Equipment

- Good quality, single blade vegetable peelers.
- Long sticks, preferably soft green wood without knots - like Willow.
- Craft materials such as coloured pens.

Additional Safety Tip

Undertake the activity in a designated peripheral space outdoors, for example a corner, to avoid other children running through whilst the activity is taking place.

The Benefits

Supports hand eye coordination, fine motor skills and risk management.

Supports language and communication.

Develops confidence and a sense of achievement in using an everyday item.

Progression in Learning

• Build on the experience of using peelers, along with the associated risk management, to introduce other tools for woodwork, for example, screwdrivers and hammers.