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.