



Headteacher
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Dear Parents / Carer

We are excited to let you know more about the woodwork provision in our Early Years setting. We believe this is a wonderful medium for children to work with but are sure you may be surprised that we allow the children to use real tools – such as hammers and saws!

Woodwork has a long history in early childhood education and is one of those really special activities that truly engages children and encompasses all areas of learning and development. Children really respond to the challenge and very much enjoy working with wood and real tools.

Children will develop:

- their physical coordination, fine and gross motor skill and hand eye coordination
- basic mathematical concepts, such as shape and measure and develop their mathematical thinking skills
- their understanding of the world – seeing tools as basic technology, understanding wood as a material and observing many scientific concepts such as the rotation of a wheel, levering nails back up or using a drill to drill holes
- their language with new vocabulary, using language to talk about their ideas and to problem solve
- their mark-making and drawing to express ideas on paper and also mark on the wood itself.

There are two areas where woodwork really excels. Firstly, it develops children's self-esteem and confidence – it is really empowering for children to create with real tools and they take great delight in their achievements - it really develops a can-do spirit! Secondly it develops children's thinking skills –their creative and critical thinking as they problem solve and express their imaginations with wood – which is not easy to work with!

Safety is prioritised at all times.

- The children must wear safety glasses at all times. Children who wear eyeglasses will continue to wear those and they will also protect the eye.
- Sawing is only ever done with 1:1 adult supervision.
- Of course, we cannot eliminate all risk, and there will be the occasional bruised thumb, but part of children's development is that they need to learn to manage risk and make judgements to protect themselves so they are better able to make decisions in all situations that life presents.

Children manage to get through a lot of resources with woodwork and our biggest challenge is keeping up with demand. We would appreciate if you could help by sending bottle tops, corks and lids into school. They really can join a lot together quite quickly so we need on-going help with this! Thank you.

We very much look forward to the children showing you what they have created – but remember the real product that is being made is the changes within the child! As children make with wood they are learning skills that will empower them to shape their world - encouraging them to become the innovators, makers, sculptors, tinkerers, engineers and architects of tomorrow!

The Early Years Team