**Working with Tools**

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Learning to safely use appropriate tools is an important part of a child’s development. They enable a child to fashion instruments for both practical usefulness and pleasure. Tools help children learn how natural materials feel and change and when used safely, help to develop coordination, dexterity and ingenuity.

Only Level 3 Qualified Forest School or Bushcraft leaders will train children to use tools and will be responsible for the care and safety of all individuals when using tools, including implementing the safe tool use policy and procedure.

At Lymley Wood, we will encourage the use of the following tools:

* Potato peelers;
* Hand drill;
* Palm drill;
* Small hacksaws;
* Bow Saws;
* Loppers;
* Bill hooks;
* Hammers/ mallets.

**Risks**

* Cuts to hand when taking guard off saw: High
* Cuts to hand if saw was to jump: High
* Directly grabbing or touching a blade: High
* Stab injury from point of peeler: High
* Tripping injury from cut wood lying on ground: Medium
* Impact injury from falling branches when coppicing: Medium

**Control Measures**

* Gloves are to be worn when using any type of saw or hand drill.
* Saw guard to be replaced immediately after use to protect from saw blade.
* All children to be supervised when using tools.
* Designated area clearly set up and defined for tool activities.

**Safe Tool Use**

Individual tools will be introduced to children in a structured way, clearly showing how to use each tool safely.

The following guidelines will be followed:

* All staff and children will be trained in correct and safe use of edged tools and hand saws.
* All children will be supervised by adults whilst using tools.
* All tools to be returned to the tool bag after use and checked.
* Tools to be checked regularly for signs of damage, and repaired as a preventative measure.

**Residual Risks**

Likelihood Low with control measures in place and by following the safe tool use policy.

**Maintenance**

Tools to be checked, cleaned, sharpened and oiled regularly.

All tools should be kept in a locked box and labelled.

A checklist of items/tools is attached so all tools are returned safely and counted on return at the end of each session.