

WOODWORK RISK ASSESSMENT

School: St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

Date of Assessment: 12/06/2023 Assessed by: E. Atkinson

What is being assessed	What hazards may be present	What degree of injury could be reasonably expected	What precautions have been put in place to reduce the risk of injury	What likelihood is there of risk still occurring	What is the risk rating
Woodwork Area	Impact with tools Tripping	Medium	Monitored at all times by staff member. (either in vicinity or close proximity) Locate woodwork area in a position that reduces flow/ traffic. Locate away from distractions. Ensure that the floor is clear of obstacles that could cause tripping. Limit number of children working if small area	Low	Low
Splinters	Infection	Low/High	Avoid working with very splintery wood Adults to sand very rough edges, if necessary, first before children use wood Children to initially sand any rough edges, and sand after sawing if rough Splinter to be removed immediately if reasonably possible by first aider, if not inform parents to seek medical attention and monitor site for possible infection Teacher has only purchased Balsa Wood to be used in school- this wood has an outstanding strength to weigh ratio and is durable. It absorbs shock and vibration well and can be easily cut, shaped and glued with simple hand tools. Balsa wood comes from the Ochroma pyramidale tree which grows in south and central America. It is categorised as a hardwood because it comes from a flowing tree but is actually more like a weed.	Low	Low
Eye protection	Injury to eye from nail rebound, debris in eye	High	Safety glasses <u>always</u> to be worn. Children that already wear glasses will suffice. Goggles to be worn if excessive dust	Low	Low
Woodwork Clothing	General injury	Low	Ensure children wearing suitable clothing to move freely; for example remove gloves and scarves to facilitate coordination. Shoes to be worn.	Low	Low
Treated wood	Toxicity	Low	Avoid using painted or chemically treated wood. If in doubt the wood should not be used.	Low	Low
Tools general	Impact	Low	Walk when transporting tools and hold by side Instruction on how to use tools safely(Introductory1:3 ratio, Saw, Nail puller 1:1) Ensure regularly checked –e.g. hammer head not loose All Equipment to remain in woodwork area Misuse of tools will not to be tolerated Keep checklist of who has been taught which tool	Low	Low
Hammer	Impact to fingers/hand	Medium	Instruction on how to use hammer safely. Dangers clearly explained. Fingers moved away when hammering hard. Initial adult supervision. 1:3. Eliminate distractions	Low	Low

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Saw	Cuts Impact injury to another child	Medium	Instruction on how to use saw and supervised 1:1 at all times. Sawing – Ensure no children are watching from in front of the sawing area - practitioner to stand in this area to prevent children getting close to saw. Child sawing with Japanese saw or pull saw to hold the saw with two hands or with western saw – with one hand and other hand holding bench well away from wood being cut. After being used - saw to immediately be put out of reach. Wood always clamped in vice when being sawn. Practitioner to check held firm in vice before sawing commences.	Low	Low
Hand drill/ Brace and bit	Injury to body	Low	Ensure work is clamped (G clamp or vice) before drilling	Low	Low
Dust	Dust - inhaled and eyes	Low	Any significant amounts of cutting/ sanding to be done outdoors. Eye protection – goggles if lot of dust. Dust mask to be worn if high levels of dust Children not to cut MDF	Low	Low
Nails/ screws	Pierce skin Swallow	Low	Any protruding nails to be made safe (hammered over) or removed All nails/ screws to be collected off floor after session (magnet) Do not hold nails/ screws in mouth. Many builders do this. Do not model this habit!	Low	Low
Misc Tools – wrench, spanners, screwdrivers, hand drills, nail puller.	Impact injuries Cuts bruises etc	Medium	Children to be given clear instruction for safe use of any new tool. Emphasise tools are not toys. Children initially to be supervised 1;3. Nail puller to be used as a lever and only used closely monitored 1:1	Low	Low
Plywood	splinters	medium	Care with plywood. It is hard for young children to work with and plywood splinters badly	n/a	n/a
Hard wood	Injury	Medium	Avoid. - as hard and very difficult for children to work. More chance of nail rebounding. Also children would have to hammer extremely hard increasing risk. Using Balsa Wood – classified as a hardwood but is soft and easy to cut and work with.	Low	Low
MDF	dust	medium	Caution with MDF. Do not cut MDF in school due to excessive levels of irritating dust. MDF is hard so to be drilled first when joining.	n/a	n/a
Battery screwdriver	Injury to fingers	Low	Clear instructions for safe use and then only used with close adult supervision. Eliminate distractions. Material being drilled to be clamped.	n/a	n/a
Children with SEN	General injury	Medium	Higher supervision ratio. 1:1 if necessary.	Low	Low
First aid response	Delayed treatment	Low	Know location of first aid kit and appointed first aider- Teacher is first aid trained	Low	Low