



Little Forest Folk

Working with tools policy

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Reviewed by: Xiao Flynn - 22nd July 2025

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 Leaders will lead sessions to teach 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 Little Forest Folk, 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 BEFORE control measure put in place

- | | |
|--|--------|
| ● 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

- Level 3 Forest School Leader to deliver activity.
- Tool area to be clearly defined.
- Tool talk to be carried out before activity.
- Tool activity sheet to be signed off by manager on site.
- Gloves are to be worn on the helping hand.
- Guards and covers to be replaced immediately after use.



- All children to be supervised when using tools.
- Tools to be checked regularly to ensure they are in good working order.
- When not in use tools must be stored in a locked container, out of reach of children.

Risks AFTER control measure put in place

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

Maintenance

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