

# APPENDIX I:

## Woodworking for Everyone

Building something useful with real tools is an excellent way for young children to develop their large and fine motor skills. The building process also supports problem-solving, creativity, self-esteem, and social skills. And working with wood allows children and adults to interact with an important forest product. Remember that all wood products come from trees!

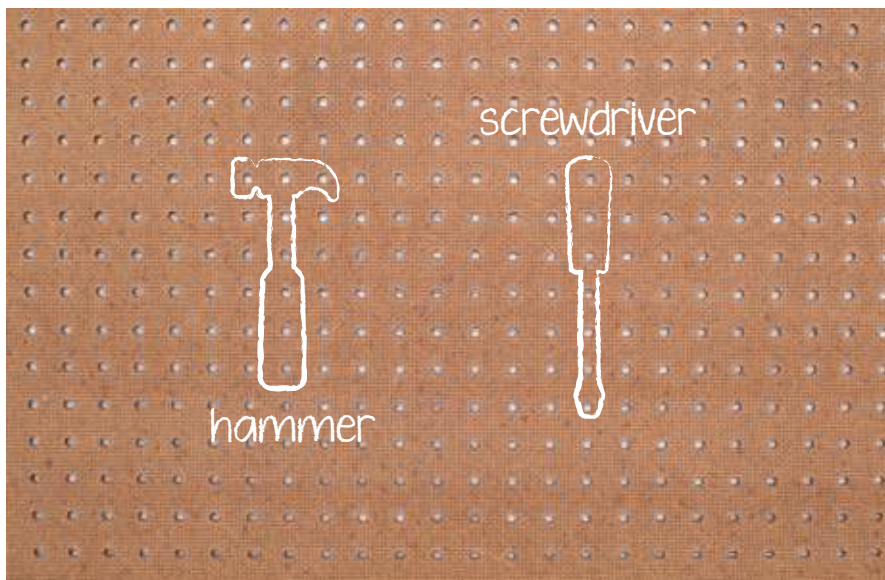
Anyone can get started with woodworking using a designated area and a few simple tools. No formal training is required! See the Woodworking sections in the activities for specific suggestions for engaging your children in woodworking.

### Tools

A woodworking area can start with a work surface and a few tools. Introduce tools one at a time. Over time, the woodworking area could feature the following equipment:

- Safety goggles
- Lightweight hammers
- Short screwdrivers with large stubby handles (straight slot and Phillips head)
- Pliers
- Hand drills (manual)
- Vises or C-clamps
- Large-headed nails, such as roofing nails
- Large screws
- Sandpaper and files in a variety of grades and sizes
- Wood glue
- Tape measures, rulers, and squares
- Carpenter pencils and notebooks for planning and sketching
- Small whisk broom and dustpan for cleanup





## Tips

Use these suggestions for successful and safe woodworking experiences:

- Use a pegboard to hold tools. Trace around each tool on the pegboard and write the name of the tool next to the outline. This system makes it easier for children to return tools to their proper places.
- Introduce tools one at a time to small groups of children.
- Ask at home improvement stores, lumberyards, and construction sites for scraps of wood. Soft woods are best (e.g., pine, cedar, fir, redwood).
- Pound large-headed nails into stumps for practice. If your children are not ready to hammer real nails into wood, let them practice by hammering golf tees into Styrofoam packing pieces.
- To keep children from hurting their fingers when they are hammering, use needle-nose pliers to hold the nail. Children can also push the nail through a small square of paper and then hold the paper to keep the nail in place as they hammer.
- Use a vise or C-clamp (not hands) to hold wood for sawing, drilling, and hammering. Most injuries happen to the hand that is holding the material—not the hand holding the tool.
- When children are sawing, either both hands must be on the saw or the hand not holding the saw must be behind the child's back.

## Safety Rules

Establish and reinforce rules for the woodworking area:

- Everyone must wear safety goggles, whether they are using tools or just watching.
- Tools have special jobs and can be used only for that job. For example, hammers are used only for hammering nails into wood.
- Tools and supplies must be put away after use.
- An adult must be present when tools are in use.