

8.11 Forest School – Safe Use of Tools

Policy Statement

As a part of the Forest school experience it is desirable for children to use tools and equipment. The children will have close supervision of the Forest School Leader, instructed on the safe and correct use of the tools.

Using Tools

All tools have their own clear code of conduct for correct use which will include consideration of specific personal protective equipment, correct use of a specific body posture, and consideration of the appropriate types of activity that each tool may be used for.

Using and Storing Tools

All tools are counted out and back in at the beginning and end of each session in which they are used. When not in use in the Forest they are kept secured away in a locked area. Before each tool is to be used it will be checked for damage and working order. Each tool type is kept in their own suitable containers, many of which are also lockable. Children must never be allowed to help themselves and will always have adult supervision when collecting, transporting and using tools. Tools are only used for a specific purpose. All adults should model correct and safe tool use, storage and transportation at all times. When using a tool, they are used well away from others in the group, (two arm's length and the tool length) and ensuring that others are aware that a tool is in use. Only walking is permitted when transporting a tool.

Safe Use of Tools

- Safe use of tools General
- Keep tools in good, clean order.
- Check tools are safe to use before the start of each session.
- Carry out tool maintenance (cleaning and oiling) once a week.
- Do not use tools with damaged blades or handles or with loose bolts or fixings.
- When transporting tools do not carry more than can be held securely.
- A blunt blade is more dangerous than a sharp one.
- Count tools in and out.

Bow Saws – use for cutting wood with a diameter greater than a 2 pence piece

- Use the saw to the side of you and not in front.
- Keep your non sawing hand away from the blade when sawing – (adult hand to cover child's non saw hand)
- Saw with easy relaxed strokes using the full length of the blade. Let the blade do the work – don't force it, especially if it sticks.
- Carry with the frame at your side with the blade facing down, like carrying a handbag.
- Keep the blade covered when not in use and especially when transporting.
- Ensure the item to be cut is firmly held.

- When using with children – Leader and child to kneel on floor with Leader on one side of saw and the child on the other, both in the ‘respect position’. The Leader guides the saw and the child follows

Loppers

- Loppers – use for cutting wood with a diameter smaller than a 2 pence piece
- Always carry with blades closed (and locked if applicable).
- When not in use leave with blades closed (and locked if applicable).
- Do not exceed the cutting capacity of the tool.
- Use away from your body and keep hand not holding tool away from blades.
- Children only to use when sitting or kneeling.

Potato Peelers – use to peel bark

- Rest the wood you are peeling on the ground or on a bench and not on your leg.
- Hold the potato peeler away from your body and peel away from yourself towards the ground.
- Keep the hand not holding the tool away from sharp end of potato peeler.
- Keep a safe distance from other people and be aware of those around you while you work.
- Children only to use when sitting or kneeling – remind them not to move around when using the peeler.

Tent Pegs – (when used to hollow out elder piths)

- Rest the wood you are working with on the ground or on a bench and not on your leg.
- Poke out the piths away from your body towards the ground, and not towards you.
- Keep a safe distance from other people and be aware of those around you while you work.
- Children only to use when sitting or kneeling – remind them not to move around when using the tent pegs.

This policy was adopted by Milford Preschool Plus Ltd

On January 2019

Date to be reviewed 2020

Signed on behalf of the provider S.Smith

Name of signatory Mrs. S. Smith

Chair of Directors