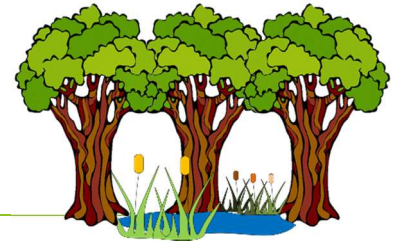


Hand Tool Safety Policy



The use of hand tools is an important element of Forest School, teaching key skills such as teamwork and fine/gross motor skills. It is essential therefore that the tools are kept properly and are well maintained to ensure they are safe, but also the children understand the correct way to use these tools.

- Staff to child ratio 1:2 for bowsaws, loppers and knives.
- Tools are to be kept in the Forest School shed, in a toolbox that is locked.
- Tools are only to be removed from the shed by Leaders, other staff and volunteers.
- Running, throwing or pointing tools is strictly prohibited.
- The 'helper hand' (opposite to main hand) should have a glove on when using a knife or bowsaw.
- Children will be taught the 'tool talk', ensuring they know how to pick up, walk with, use and put away safely. Children will lose the privilege to use tools if they do not follow guidance.
- When using a bowsaw, the piece of wood must be supported on a sawing break such as another piece of wood to ensure it is off the ground.
- All the tools will be counted at the end of each session to ensure they have all been returned.
- Volunteers will be briefed on how to use the tools correctly prior to using them with children.

Ratios

Tools	Staff/Child
Billhooks	1:1 or 1:2
Bowsaw	1:2
Knife	1:2
Veg peelers	1:2
Loppers	1:2