



Foresteers Outdoor Preschool

Working with Tools Policy

Reviewed January 2026

Reviewed by Hayley Smith - Preschool Manager

Learning to safely use appropriate tools are 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 or those that have had work based training with Hayley and deemed confident and capable will train 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 Foresteers Outdoor Preschool, we will encourage the use of the following tools:

- potato peelers;
- hand drill;
- palm drill;
- small hacksaws;
- bowsaws;
- loppers.
- hammers

Risks

- Cuts to hand when taking guard off saw: High
- Cuts to hand if saw was to jump: High
- Directly grasping 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

- Gloves and appropriate PPE are to be worn when using any type of saw or hand drill.
- Saw guard to be replaced immediately after use to protect from saw blade.
- All children to be supervised when using tools.

Safe tool use policy

Individual tools will be introduced to children in a structured way, clearly showing how to use each tool safely.

The following guidelines will be followed:

- All staff and children will be trained in correct and safe use of edged tools and hand saws.
- All children will be supervised by adults whilst using tools.

- All tools to be returned to the tool bag after use and checked.
- Tools to be checked regularly for signs of damage, and repaired as a preventative measure.

Residual Risks

Likelihood Low with control measures in place and by following the safe tool use policy.

Maintenance

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

**This policy was adopted
on**

1st January 2026

**Signed on behalf of the
preschool**

Hayley Smith

Date for review

December 2026