

# TOP 20 WOODWORKING TIPS

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...IN EARLY YEARS EDUCATION



ALLOW CHILDREN TO MAKE WHAT THEY WANT TO MAKE – THIS WAY THEY CREATE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, AND HAVE THE INTRINSIC MOTIVATION TO PERSEVERE AND FIND THEIR OWN SOLUTIONS...AND EVERY WORK IS TOTALLY UNIQUE!

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FOR EASY SANDING – GLUE THE SANDPAPER TO A WOOD BOARD WITH PVA

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## 2



SCREW DISHES TO A BOARD TO PREVENT THEM SPILLING OVER

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3



USE A MAGNET TO PICK UP FALLEN NAILS AND SCREWS ON THE FLOOR

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4



KEEP EYES SAFE WITH SAFETY GLASSES - NAILS CAN REBOUND, MATERIALS CAN SHATTER

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SHORT STUBBY HAMMERS MAKE HAMMERING EASY

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REMEMBER IT'S A LOT EASIER TO HAMMER IN A SMALL NAIL THAN A LARGE ONE!!  
(AND THIN NAILS ARE MUCH EASIER THAN WIDE NAILS)

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KNOTS ARE BEST WORKED AROUND –THEY ARE VERY HARD TO HAMMER INTO AND HARD TO CUT

AND

IT'S SO MUCH EASIER TO CUT WOOD ACROSS THE GRAIN THAN ALONG IT



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PULL SAWS ARE SO MUCH EASIER FOR YOUNG CHILDREN TO USE – USED WITH BOTH HANDS AND THEY CUT WITHOUT SNAGGING

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SOLID ROBUST SURFACES MAKE LIFE EASIER – MUCH EASIER FOR HAMMERING. IF YOU WORKBENCH IS PLACED ON A CARPET OR OUTDOOR RUBBER SURFACE HAMMERING BECOMES HARDER

AND FOR SAWING THE WORKBENCH SHOULD BE AS STUDDY AS POSSIBLE AND REMAIN STATIONARY – ANY MOVEMENT WILL MAKE SAWING MUCH HARDER

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SHORT POSIDRIV SCREWDRIVERS ARE MUCH EASIER FOR CHILDREN TO MANAGE

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INITIALLY STARTING WITH A SOFT MATERIAL MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE AS CHILDREN CAN MASTER SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES EASILY AND GAIN CONFIDENCE. THIS COULD BE Balsa WOOD, INSULATION FOAM BOARD, CORK, BLOCKS OF CARDBOARD ETC

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MAKE LIFE EASY WITH A HAND DRILL - MAKING PILOT HOLES FOR SCREWING AND HOLES TO MAKE JOINING WITH NAILS EASIER

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HOLD WORK STEADY WITH A G-CLAMP- ESPECIALLY USEFUL FOR DRILLING

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WHEN SAWING ALWAYS HAVE WORK HELD TIGHT IN A VICE AND ENSURE NO OTHER CHILDREN CAN GET IN THE AREA DIRECTLY INFRONT OF THE SAW

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A NAIL PULLER IS REALLY USEFUL FOR REMOVING NAILS – BUT ONLY USE CLOSELY SUPERVISED TO ENSURE IT IS USED AS A LEVER



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HAVE BOOKS RELATING TO WOODWORK TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S LITERACY

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MAKE TIME TO TALK, EXTEND THINKING AND REFLECT ON LEARNING

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INCORPORATE MATHEMATICAL EQUIPMENT – LOTS OF OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP MATHEMATICAL THINKING

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STEP UP THE DIFFICULTY INCREMENTALLY – BE CAREFUL NOT TOO INTRODUCE TOO MUCH CHALLENGE TOO SOON SO IT BECOMES TOO DIFFICULT AND FRUSTRATING

SO START WITH SOFT MATERIAL – SUCH AS BALSAWOOD, PACKED CARDBOARD, INSULATION FOAM BOARD, CORK TILES ETC. THIS WAY CHILDREN CAN MASTER SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES EASILY AND GAIN CONFIDENCE

THEN PROGRESS TO SOFT WOOD SUCH AS PINE BUT USE ONLY SMALL 25MM NAILS

GRADUALLY INTRODUCE A WIDER SELECTION OF SOFT WOOD AND LONGER NAILS

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AND FINALLY REMEMBER IS NOT ABOUT WHAT CHILDREN MAKE IS ALL ABOUT THE CHANGES THAT ARE BEING MADE WITHIN THE CHILD



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INSET

CPD

CONFERENCES

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# Learning Through Woodwork

Introducing Creative Woodwork in the Early Years



"Every so often a book is written that helps practitioners to develop their work in deep and far reaching ways. This is that sort of book."  
Tina Bruce, CBE

A David Fulton Book

Pete Moorhouse

And if you are already doing woodwork  
please help!

The Big Bang Research Project:

## **Researching the Impact of Woodwork Provision in Early Years Education**

I am currently undertaking research at the University of Bristol, into the impact woodwork has on children's learning and development in Early Childhood Education.

I really need your help to get a clear picture of how woodwork provision is looking across the country. This is the first quantitative research study into woodwork provision in Early Years education both in the UK and around the world.

I'm asking if you could please complete the attached research survey – either fill, save and email back or print and post. Details are on the form. Your contribution would be hugely appreciated and is important in order to make a difference by enabling more young children to experience the wonders of woodwork.

The intention is that we can evidence the rich learning and development and promote woodwork to wider audience and also attract funding to enable this. We have established a charity, the Early Years Woodwork Association and this will be developed to promote woodwork to help facilitate this mission.

Please note: All data will be held in accordance to GDPR (2018) and all information is strictly confidential. No judgement will be made in any way about your provision. All setting names will be removed from published research papers. Research adheres to BERA's Ethical Guidelines for Educational Research

The form is pretty simple – lots of check boxes – hopefully it can also be helpful exercise for you to reflect on your current provision. Please allow 10-15 minutes.

Thank you so much - The early years community rocks!

Kind regards, Pete Moorhouse  
Honorary Research Fellow, University of Bristol

Download the survey here:

[HTTPS://IRRESISTIBLE-LEARNING.CO.UK/WOODWORK/THE-BIG-BANG-RESEARCH-PROJECT/](https://irresistible-learning.co.uk/woodwork/the-big-bang-research-project/)