

CRAFTSMAN - CARPENTER



Topic: Basic home maintenance skills, crafts professions



Key terms: tools, equipment, nail, hammer, carpenter, carpentry, polystyrene

What we need: polystyrene board, stone, wooden sticks

Estimated time: 30 minutes

Methods: heuristic conversation, description

Activity description:

Possible objectives: To develop basic home maintenance skills.

To understand the use of tools.
To learn and understand risks whilst using tools.

Activity:

Aim of the activity:

To teach about the carpentry profession and to develop skills for hammering nails and connecting materials.

Background context:

The benefits of learning how to use tools far outweighs the potential problems, if implemented and supervised correctly. The benefits include hand eye coordination, dexterity, problem solving skills, creative thinking, independence/self esteem, conceptualization, respect for tools and materials and language development as well.

Introduction to the activity:

We are going to play Mr. Carpenter. Do you know who a carpenter is and what he does?
The teacher has a discussion with the children about the craft of carpentry.

During the activity:

Mr. Carpenter’s task for today is to hammer nails into this polystyrene board. But Mr. Carpenter is very forgetful. Naturally, he left all his tools and materials at home.

Children are divided to groups of 3-4. The children are asked what we can use as a replacement for nails and a hammer. The children will take a look around and bring some sticks as replacements for nails and stones as replacement hammers. Subsequently, the children hammer the nails into the polystyrene board. After a while, the children will discover that polystyrene is such a soft material that they do not even need a hammer. Afterwards, the teacher could break the polystyrene board into small pieces and ask the children to reconnect it with “nails”.

Finally, the children may like to try to hammer real nails into different surfaces – e.g. into the ground, wooden log etc.

Possible evaluation questions for children:

- What does Mr. Carpenter need to do his job?
- What did we need to hammer nails into the polystyrene board?
- What did we need to hammer nails into the ground?

Curriculum links:

- Man and craft
- Home maintenance skills

Sources: © This activity sheet was created by The Take Me Out Partnership

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