

A Little Whittling

A simple guide to safe whittling practice beginning with potato peelers

All

Craft and
Design
Technology



Whittling with peelers is a fun, safe way to introduce the **craft and design technology** theme of woodworking skills and get creative with nature.

Children can develop their physical **health and wellbeing** as they build their capacities of hand eye coordination, spatial awareness fine and gross motor skills and their ability to manage risk.

Simple whittling projects

Wands – for role play and story telling

Little people –for imaginative play

Christmas decorations - for enterprise

Skittles – for number bonds

Animals – for adaptations and habitat

Toasting sticks – using tools safely to serve a purpose

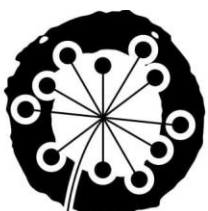
Tent pegs – a sustainable and useful resource for shelter building

Safe and Practical Whittling

It is important to ensure safety rules are followed to keep this activity safe and fun.

1. Always demonstrate correct usage to new learners.
2. Store peelers securely in a designated box or wrap them when not in use.
3. Only ever pick up the peeler by its handle.
4. Choose a stick the length of the lower arm to finger tip and thumb thickness.
5. Use soft, green wood such as willow for the best results.
6. Avoid sticks with knots as the peeler can catch and bounce off.
7. Ensure you are seated or knelt in a stable position when whittling.
8. Have at least an arm's length 'bubble' around you away from others.
9. Hold the top end of the stick you are whittling and keep it away from your body.
10. Point the stick downwards.
11. Always push the peeler away from you.
12. Always look at what you are whittling. If someone talks to you or you need to look away, stop and put the peeler down.
13. Any sharp sticks made should be blunted and left behind.
14. Try to soak dry wood in water before using it as a toasting stick.

The natural progression from whittling with peelers is to knives but this requires proven competency and confidence of the leader; experience and trust of the group built over time; enough supervision and a risk benefit assessment to support the activity.



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