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Te mahi kāmura | Carpentry

Carpentry gives tamariki the opportunity to develop and practise a wide range of skills. It encourages creativity and problem-solving and can teach tamariki basic principles of physics and engineering. Tamariki can experience a sense of accomplishment and pride when they create something with their own hands.

Links to Te Whāriki

Carpentry play can introduce tamariki to basic concepts in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics such as measuring, planning, designing, and constructing (**Exploration | Mana aotūroa**). Working with carpentry tools and equipment helps tamariki learn to keep themselves safe from harm, while developing their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination (**Wellbeing | Mana atua**).



Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga
Ministry of Education



Te Poutāhū
Curriculum Centre

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Carpentry can help tamariki to:

- › gain increasing control over their bodies, hand-eye coordination, manipulative skills, and muscular strength
- › develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills
- › practise safe risk-taking and being responsible with sharp and heavy objects
- › develop their sense of space and measurements such as size and length
- › learn to observe, plan, predict, and experiment
- › express their creativity in a 3-dimensional way
- › learn to share and cooperate with others.

Adults can support tamariki by:

- › taking an interest and listening to them
- › watching them closely and making sure carpentry equipment is used safely and correctly
- › being ready to help them if needed, e.g. to hold a drill
- › making sure the area is well stocked with suitable wood, nails etc
- › showing them how to use the tools correctly and look after them
- › allowing them to explore at their own pace
- › supporting them to put their own ideas into practice without taking over.

Providing for carpentry

Provide a safe space where adults can observe tamariki. A bench needs to be sturdy and at child height, with a trolley or shelves nearby to store wood and equipment. It needs to be on a hard surface, where dropped nails and small items can be picked up. Large magnets make this task easier. Wood needs to be soft and untreated (pine is good). Logs or tree trunks on the ground are great for young children to hammer.

Ideas for equipment

- › light hammers, vices, nails in a range of sizes, pliers, nuts and bolts
- › hand-drill and bit, and screws and screwdriver (short, stubby kind is the easiest to use), sandpaper and block
- › ruler, builder's pencil, tape, string, bottle tops, PVA glue, child safety goggles.

Manu aute: kites

The Nga Tamariki Iti O Aotearoa series (available through thechair.co.nz) includes the story of Hemi's kite. This story shares easy kite making techniques, using mainly natural resources such as stems of toetoe, kākāka (bracken), and various types of rush for the frames; raupō (bulrush) leaves, or the leaves of ūpoko tangata (cutty grass) for the coverings and feathers and shells as decorations.