

Course notes, links and discussion prompts:

Unit video timings:

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| Unit 1 - An introduction to the course. Historical and current context. Equal opportunities. | 63mins |
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| Unit 2 - Theory: Associated learning and development | 70mins |
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| Unit 3 - Introduction to tools, wood, resources and workbenches | 68mins |
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| Unit 4 - How to set up a woodwork area and manage the provision | 61mins |
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| Unit 5 - Health and safety and risk assessment. Parents | 55 mins |
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| Unit 6 - Longer term and collaborative projects | 58mins |
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| Unit 7 - 20 top tips and concluding comments | 38 mins |
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| Unit 8 - Practical: Guidance for practitioner hands-on experience | 26mins |

Note: I would like to thank parents for your kind permission to use images. Further use of images in any format or further distribution is not permitted.

I have no financial relationship with any supplier of tools – I suggest the most suitable tools and provide several options from where they can be purchased.

**Unit 1 - An introduction to the course. Historical and current context. Equal opportunities.**

See handout: Summary of guidance from HSE and DfE   
Further reading – Leuven scales of involvement and well-being

Discussion points:

How do we feel about the current shift from risk aversion to a more balanced risk benefit approach?  
Why do we want to embrace woodwork? What are our priorities?  
Do we think woodwork will be particularly beneficial for certain children?   
How can we ensure woodwork is inclusive and made available to all children?

**Unit 2 - Theory: Associated learning and development**

See handouts:

Woodwork and curriculum  
Woodwork learning outcomes  
Woodwork learning and development mind map  
Woodwork booklist  
Girl Power (tools) booklist  
Woodwork and mathematical thinking

Link to creativity wheel: <https://irresistible-learning.co.uk/resources/#creativity>  
Link to CAT – creativity assessment tool: <https://irresistible-learning.co.uk/resources/#creativity>

Discussion points:

How can we ensure we make the most of the learning opportunities at the woodwork bench?  
How can we ensure we prioritise creative development?  
How can we best interact to develop creative and critical thinking skills?  
Are there any books from the booklist we’d like to order?

**Unit 3 - Introduction to tools, wood, resources and workbenches**

See handout: Woodwork equipment

I have no financial relationship with any supplier of tools – I suggest the most suitable tools and provide several options from where they can be purchased.

Discussion points:

How will we finance and resource the woodwork area?  
How will we collect wood and other materials? And ensure this is ongoing?  
Who will take lead responsibility for the overview of the woodwork resources?

**Unit 4 - How to set up a woodwork area and manage the provision**

See handout – Progression in woodwork

Discussion points:  
  
Who will take the lead role for woodwork provision?  
Where will the area be located?  
How will we monitor the provision?  
How will we introduce the tools?  
How will we prioritise sustained shared thinking?  
How will children reflect on their learning?  
How will we document learning?

**Unit 5 - Health and safety and risk assessment. Parents**

See handouts:

Health and safety checklist  
Example risk assessment from  
Example letter to reassure parents

Discussion points:

How do feel about the prospect of woodwork in terms of H&S?  
Do we need to take into account any specific children or other factors?  
Who will compile the risk assessment document?  
How will we reassure and inform parents?

**Unit 6 - Longer term and collaborative projects**

Further reading:

The Project Approach: Engaging Children's Minds - Lilian Katz, Sylvia C. Chard   
Bringing the Reggio Approach to your Early Years Practice - Linda Thornton  
Learning Through Woodwork (Routledge)  
Maker-Centered Learning – E.Clapp, et al. Jossey-Bass

Reggio Emilia: https://www.reggiochildren.it/en/  
Project approach: http://projectapproach.org/

Discussion points:

Do we have any authentic opportunities/ needs that could lead to a potential project?  
What specific interests are we currently noticing that could lead to a project?  
How can we encourage continued progression in subsequent year groups?  
Could we combine woodwork with makerspace provision?

**Unit 7 - 20 top tips and concluding comments**

Links:

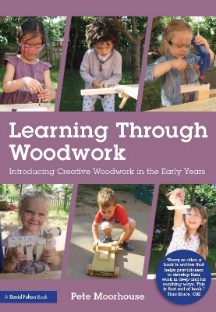
20 top tips pdf:

<https://irresistible-learning.co.uk/resource/top-20-woodwork-tips-for-early-years/>

General woodworking resources

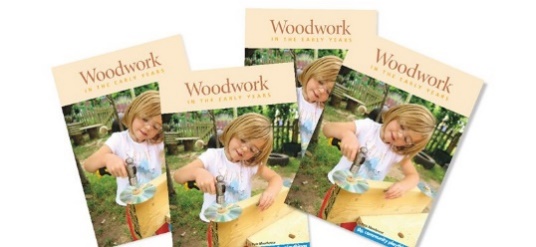
<https://irresistible-learning.co.uk/resources/#woodwork>

Learning Through Woodwork (Routledge) by Pete Moorhouse



<https://www.hive.co.uk/Product/Pete-Moorhouse/Learning-Through-Woodwork--Introducing-Creative-Woodwork-in-the-Early-Years/21130781>

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B078KGGPZ6/ref=dbs_a_def_rwt_bibl_vppi_i0>



Community Playthings booklet

<https://www.communityplaythings.co.uk/learning-library/training-resources/woodwork-in-the-early-years>

\*\*Do get in touch if you would like to translate this booklet into your own language\*\*

**The Big Bang Research project:**

After you are up and running – please take time to complete this research survey – it takes 20-30 mins – but it is also a great way for you to reflect and evaluate your current provision.

The research project is to evaluate the impact of woodwork on children’s learning and development.

<https://irresistible-learning.co.uk/woodwork/the-big-bang-research-project/>

**Unit 7 Discuss:**

Do we now feel we have all the information we need?   
Any remaining questions to follow up with Pete?  
Could we get any books as reference material?

**Unit 8 - Practical: Guidance for practitioner hands-on experience**

**Aims:**

To gain confidence and familiarity of working with the recommended tools  
To get a sense of what the experience will feel like for the children (especially in terms of progression)  
To embed health and safety guidance

**What to get ready for this session:** (See woodwork equipment sheet handout)

Wood – balsa wood, and selection of pine off cuts and some mdf/ hardboard/ plywood to also experience  
For pine I’d recommend some studding 2” by 1” which can be sawn into blocks and a mix of other offcuts  
Nails, screws, sandpaper  
Selection of other resources – corks, bottle tops, string, fabric, buttons, beads etc

Tools:

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| Stubby hammers Stubby screwdrivers Small pull saw Large pull saw Hand drills |

Optional:

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| --- |
| Brace and bit drill Rasp Palm drill Nail lever G clamps |

You will need a workbench (or a portable workmate to hold wood firm for sawing – this would be fine for teacher practical session but is not recommended for children to use)  
Table protection mats if using school tables – approx. 40cm by 40cm  
  
It would be advantageous to do this practical session with the whole staff team – having fun together, discussing and reflecting together, and generating enthusiasm for embracing woodwork provision

Practical session 1 - Using balsa wood (small pull saw, hammer, screwdriver) approx. 30 mins

Practical session 2 - Using a wide variety of pine offcuts and mixed additional resources (large pull saw, hand drill)  
 approx. 1.5hrs

**Unit 8 Discuss:**

Before you start the practical share previous experience of work with tools – as a child, at home DIY etc or previous experience working with children

Reflecting on the practical….

How did it feel working with the balsa wood?   
How did it feel working with the pine?  
Share examples of problem solving with each other

What steps do we still need to take to get stated?  
Who will coordinate the provision?

**COMPLETION**

**Course certificate:**To receive your CPD certificate please ensure:

* All 8 videos have been watched
* Handouts read
* You have experienced working hands-on with the recommended tools or plan to before introducing woodwork you children.

Then please complete the short completion assessment by following this link:  
<https://bit.ly/2BBwjlz>

You will then receive your CPD certificate by email. Thank you for completing this course.

**Follow up:**

If you have any further questions or would like to discuss any element in more detail please contact me by email.  
[studio@petemoorhouse.co.uk](mailto:studio@petemoorhouse.co.uk)  
For individuals this can be followed up by email or a phone call, For groups there is also the option of a zoom/ skype call.

**Special thanks:**Thank you to Community Playthings for providing the workbench for the videos <https://www.communityplaythings.co.uk/>  
Thank you to loyalty free music: John Bartman/African Village and Loyalty Freak Music/No Cadillac

**Big bang….small hands…BIG ideas!**

**Through woodwork children will be learning the skills to enable them to shape their world**