

WOODWORK – NAILS AND SCREWS

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Having the most suitable nails and screws for young children makes a big difference – especially when they are first experiencing woodwork.



NAILS

25mm NAILS

Start with 25mm round nails (Bright steel plain head round nails)

- The nail needs to have a head
- The shaft needs to be smooth – some versions are ribbed.(ring nails)



One of the biggest misconceptions is that it will be easier if young children start with a large nail – as easier to hold and having a bigger head so easier to land the hammer on the nail. Large nails are so much harder to hammer in needing considerably more force and they are very difficult to start off with and could put children off woodwork.

So start with these 25mm nails. Start initially with a soft material for the youngest children – see my handout on 'soft start'. Balsa wood is ideal but there are other options. They are usually approx. 1.8mm- 2mm in diameter.

LONGER NAILS



Once children are happily hammering nail after nail – they can progress to longer nails allowing more possibilities. But – I still recommend sticking to the small nails as much as possible – so only using longer nails when there is a need.

To facilitate this we have the short 25mm nails out on the workbench and then the longer nails are nearby on a shelf – so they need to make a conscious decision to go and select a larger nail.

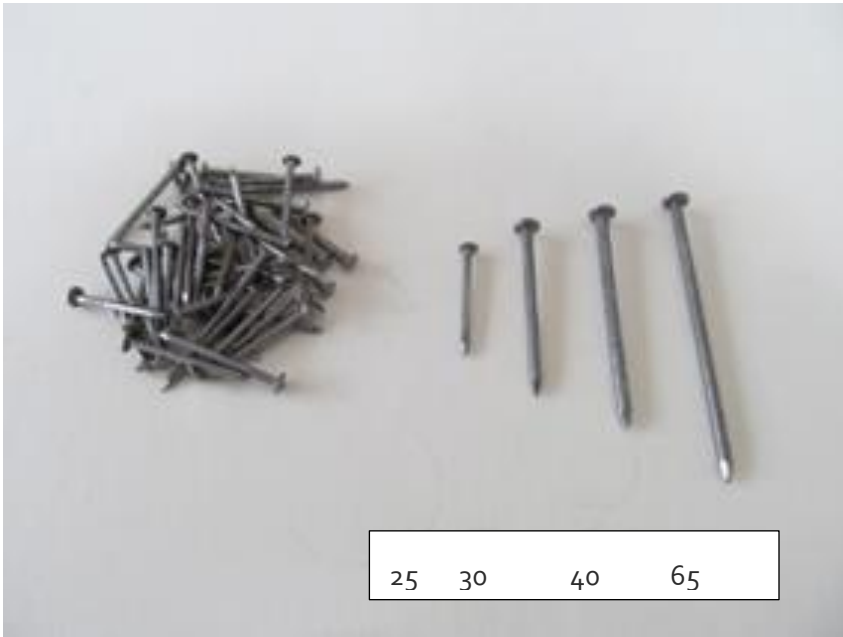
If all the nails are out on the workbench – children often gravitate to choosing nails that are much bigger than they need!

Have a selection of longer nails. Two things to consider. Length and diameter.

Having a variety of lengths 40mm, 50 mm and 60-70mm would be ideal.

In terms of diameter – too thick and they will be really hard to hammer in – and too thin and there can be a tendency to bend if not hammered perfectly vertically. The ideal diameter is 2.65 mm (a common standard size). Certainly no larger than this.

It will be cheaper if you buy bright round nails – ie made from mild steel – some nails are coated in zinc (galvanized) to last longer outdoors but this will make them more expensive.



Suppliers:

The cheapest way to buy nails is in bulk – children get through A LOT! And if you buy in small packets it will really add up. Your local hardware shop should be able to order all these for you!

I buy 25Kg boxes – they do last a couple of years and are SO much cheaper



25 Kg of nails should cost about £40-50

Can be good to search on ebay – but be careful as prices vary wildly

<https://tradefixdirect.com/> order by 500g or 25kg box

<https://www.rjpryce.com> here you can order by the Kg

<https://www.pmhardware.co.uk/> and <https://www.fixfirm.com/> by 25kg box

for smaller quantities:

<https://uk.rs-online.com/web/c/fasteners-fixings/nails/nails/>

SCREWS:



Go for posidriv – (plus sign not slot) and countersunk. Twin thread is standard.

We start with small screws. No 10's or No's 8, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch length are perfect being quite large and short, to make the task relatively easy and to develop confidence.

Always use Posidriv cross head screws as they are much easier than slotted screws. Size: PZ2 -This is crucial as screws come in so many sizes of slot. The screwdriver also needs to be PZ2 so they match – otherwise it will slip.

Screws are often sold in imperial measurements!

No 10 diameter is 5mm

No 8 diameter is 4mm

¾ inch length is 19mm

As children's skills develop a selection of longer screws can be introduced. But again much easier to just stick to short screws as much as possible.

The large short screws are not so easy to find! (Most short screws are thin and fiddly to use.)

Suppliers:

<https://screws.direct/products/twin-thread-zinc-countersunk?variant=1570580267026>

also

<https://uk.rs-online.com>

also ebay search can be good

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Box-200-Fastadrive-Thread-Screw/dp/B016Q3l3No/ref=sr_1_4?ie=UTF8&qid=1521966552&sr=8-4&keywords=fastadrive+wood+screw+no+10

Other screws:

Eye screws:

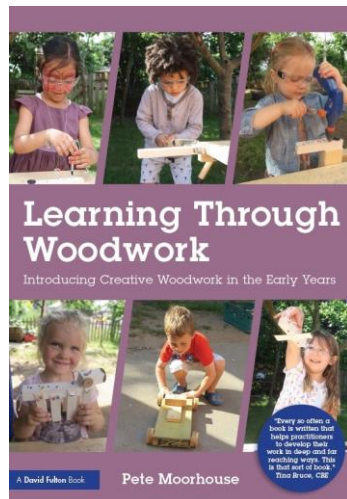


Hook screws:



These are available in all shapes and sizes – great for combining with string, wire and rubber bands

For detailed information on hammers, screwdrivers and drills see:



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Routledge

And for in-depth online woodwork professional training:

<https://irresistible-learning.co.uk/woodwork-cpd-online-course/>

Woodwork CPD

INTRODUCING WOODWORK IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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

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