

Workbenches

Workbenches are essential items for woodwork. They must have a vice - that's the whole point - to hold wood firm for sawing. They need to be as robust as possible so they do not wobble at all - this will make sawing much easier. Avoid the foldaway 'workmate' type - they tend to wobble a lot and young children can't manage the parallel clamping.

Workbenches are available from most early years suppliers. They come at a variety of costs with some being more durable. They need to be kept dry.

I appreciate for many settings this can be a considerable expense - but the investment will last many years. There are alternatives - the best by far is to get someone to make one for you! Early year's staff are some of the nicest people on the planet so use your charm to convince a parent, grandparent, caretaker etc. to make you one! Many people have time on their hands and love to make a contribution - we're actually doing *them* a favour!!

Here is a link with my rudimentary instructions:

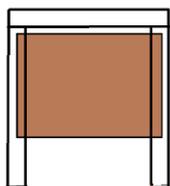
<https://irresistible-learning.co.uk/resource/make-your-own-workbench/>

You could of course also make one with your children, but it would be a very adult directed project and it's certainly so much easier to construct with power tools which I do not recommend young children using.



Another great alternative is to get an old table and add a vice or you could buy an adult workbench which are often a lot cheaper and cut the legs down to lower it. A good working height is 61cm.

Top tip - if your workbench becomes less ridged over time - strengthen it but adding a rectangle of plywood at the ends.



Below are a selection of workbenches available. Prices correct 12/21. Make sure it has a vice or you get one separately. The best vices are those that you rotate the wooden or metal arm.



https://www.communityplaythings.co.uk/products/art-and-science/workbench/c-24/c-76?fbclid=IwAR39koCv_W-7tEhBFRwz3KuFP3W56pWKowCWnoWL0L9U8xTqUNX853v7bgw



Community playthings £394 plus VAT



Community playthings £704 plus VAT

I find the holder is not really needed – better to have the whole table space for working



<https://outdoorlearningresources.co.uk/>

A solid study workbench with with an integral 8" vice fitted to it. This workbench is 4ft (122cm) wide and made from 100% FSC accredited pine. The vice is fixed to the end of the bench for easy access. The 8" integral vice has a long turning handle and so is very easy for children to operate independently. £345 inc shipping. They also offer a version without a vice. £235





https://www.cosydirect.com/catalogsearch/result/?q=workbench&fbclid=IwAR11xuDOR1dljwFB0xBQStydNu4gDhtSeFGPC1hjusCJbV_uUT2EIVMld2g



121.00 plus VAT (needs a vice)



142 plus VAT (needs a vice)



HEAVY DUTY CARPENTERS WORK BENCH £335 plus VAT
HEAVY DUTY CARPENTERS WORK BENCH £298 plus VAT



EARLY YEARS OUTDOOR WOODWORKING BENCH £227.99 plus VAT
also stock options with vice



HEAVY DUTY WORK BENCH £170.28 plus VAT
also stock options with vice



www.weeplayuplay.co.uk



Tool bench £295

Version without back coming soon which would provide more workspace, vice position not ideal.



Early Excellence
Inspirational Learning

<https://earlyexcellence.com/>



Sjobergs Woodwork bench £395 plus VAT



Alternative: Buy a vice and add it to a table



PORTABLE BENCH VICE

From amazon and many others

Irwin Record v150b

<https://www.mytoolshed.co.uk/irwin-record-v150b-woodcraft-vice-6in.html>

many suppliers just google Irwin record v150b