

Woodwork at Nära Nurseries

At our setting, we are proud to offer a woodwork station as part of our rich, creative curriculum. This hands-on experience allows children to explore real tools and natural materials in a safe, supportive environment. Here's why we believe woodwork is such a valuable part of your child's learning journey.

Why Woodwork?

In today's fast-paced, digital world, it's more important than ever for children to develop creative thinking and problem-solving skills. Woodwork nurtures these abilities by allowing children to make their own choices and learn through trial and error. As they plan, tinker, and build, they become deeply engaged, often for extended periods of time.

Woodwork is about much more than making things - it engages hands, hearts, and minds. From the smell and texture of the wood to the feel of real tools in their hands, this immersive experience captivates young learners and fosters deep focus and pride in their work.

"Woodwork is active learning at its best!"

Tina Bruce CBE, Professor, University of Roehampton



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Learning and Development Through Woodwork

Woodwork is unique in its ability to support all areas of early learning and development, including:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children are trusted with real tools and treated with respect—this boosts confidence, independence, and a strong sense of achievement. They learn to take responsibility, collaborate with peers, and celebrate their successes.

Physical Development

From sawing and hammering to screwing and sanding, children develop fine and gross motor skills, as well as core strength and coordination. They also learn important safety habits, such as wearing protective goggles.

Communication and Language

Woodwork sparks rich conversations. Children plan, share ideas, and reflect on their creations. As they explore new tools, they also learn new vocabulary, helping to deepen their language and listening skills.

Mathematics

Children naturally explore maths through measuring, estimating, counting, comparing size and shape, and solving spatial problems. The woodwork bench is a perfect place to bring mathematical thinking to life.

Understanding the World

Children learn about trees, wood as a material, and the natural world. They explore where wood comes from, how it behaves, and what it can be used for—building curiosity and scientific thinking.

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Expressive Arts and Design

There are no set outcomes at our woodwork station. Instead, we encourage open-ended exploration—each creation is as unique as the child who made it. Through designing and building, children express ideas and use their imagination freely.

“Woodwork is a powerful tool for developing children’s creative and critical thinking.”

— Liz Jenkins, Former Headteacher and Ofsted Inspector

Literacy

Whether sketching a plan, making marks on wood, or describing their project, woodwork supports early literacy by encouraging meaningful communication and storytelling.



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Our Approach to Safety and Learning

All resources and tools available at our woodwork bench have been carefully selected and are specifically designed for use by children aged 3 years and over. Our team has completed comprehensive risk-benefit assessments for all activities and equipment. These assessments ensure that any potential hazards are identified and that robust control measures are in place to support safe and purposeful exploration.

Children are closely supervised at all times, and safety remains our highest priority as we provide meaningful opportunities for learning through real-world experiences.

Children are introduced to the tools gradually, with clear instruction and constant supervision. They learn how to use each tool safely and respectfully, and as they build confidence, they're supported to explore independently within safe boundaries.

We encourage persistence and resilience—if a project doesn't go to plan, children are supported to problem-solve and try again. Every mistake is a learning opportunity.

What Parents Say

Parents often comment on their child's confidence, joy, and pride after time spent at the woodwork bench. You might hear about "projects" in progress, exciting ideas, or even the "tap-tap" of the hammer that captivated them all morning.

"Yes! I can do this!" — a common phrase at our woodwork station!

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A Lasting Experience

Working with wood creates strong, lasting memories. Even if this is a child's only experience with woodworking, the skills, knowledge, and confidence they gain will stay with them for life.

"As children make with wood, they are learning skills that will empower them to shape their world."

— Pete Moorhouse, Artist Educator

Let's Build Together

We are thrilled to share this enriching experience with your child. If you have any questions about our woodwork station or would like to see it in action, we'd be happy to show you more. Together, let's nurture a generation of confident creators, thinkers, and doers - one piece of wood at a time.

