



# Power Tool Safety

Everything you need to know to keep your kids safe around power tools.

Helping adults make repairs at home or build a new project is a great way to teach lifelong skills and create wonderful memories with children. Safe Kids wants to make sure that you think safety first when working with children and youth around power tools. Here are some tips for staying safe:



## Keep dangerous tools off limits.

- » Make sure your young adults have both the cognitive skills and physical strength to handle the tools with which they are working. When power tools are not in use, make sure they are secured in an area where a curious child cannot access them.

## Take care of those eyes!

- » Everyone should always wear eye protection when operating power tools. You can set a good example by wearing safety glasses as well.

## Everyone dress for the occasion

- » Roll up sleeves and make sure clothing cannot get entangled in tools. Have youth wear close-toed shoes. Also make sure to tie back long hair to keep it out of the way.

## Supervision!

- » Never leave young kids unsupervised when they are using power tools. Also, if you have younger children observing you work, make sure that they come with you when you leave the work area.

## Correct carrying of tools

- » Like all hand tools, scissors, knives, etc., power tools should be carried with blades pointing down and away from the body. Make sure kids understand the need to wrap up tool cords so they don't become a tripping hazard when walking.

## Keep distractions at a minimum

- » We are a very "connected" world. Make sure kids are not using electronic devices or wearing ear buds when working. Also, if you have a television in the shop, consider turning it off when working with young adults.

## Keep your work area clean

- » Dust, wood chips, and other trash can increase the risks for falls. Teach kids to clean up as they are working.

## Use soft woods

- » Pine, poplar and cedar are examples of softer woods that are easier to work with, cut and drill into.

## Cushion hammer blows

- » Children love to pound nails but hitting a thumb or striking oneself in the head with the claw of a hammer can be very painful. Consider light weight hammers, a magnetic nail holder and adding a tennis ball to the claw of the hammer for young kids.

## Clamp down your work

- » It can be challenging for a young adult to operate a power tool and keep the project steady. Use clamps to secure items on which they are working to the work bench or table.

## Start with a small handsaw

- » Just like children learn to ride a bicycle by starting with training wheels, it's best that kids learn to work with smaller tools first. Young adults should be taught to use two hands and not be given a saw which they cannot manage.

## Create an accessible work surface

- » Consider lowering your work bench or providing kids a work table at their appropriate height level.

With any project, it is important to assess your child's hand and motor skills and their maturity to handle tools. Each child matures at different rates so adult supervision is important, especially until you are assured of their skill level.