

Tiny Tools - Screwdrivers

Best for Ages

4+

Workspace

Flat indoor surface

Is electricity required?

No

Description

Tiny Tools introduces basic hand tools such as screwdrivers and wrenches. Practice using tools to build up confidence and tool fluency. Grab your toolbox and get ready to explore!

Materials

- Screwdrivers and wrenches of different sizes and types
- Screws, bolts and nuts
- Scrap wooden boards that have been sanded to remove rough edges
- Drop cloth or old blanket
- Drill and drill bits

Concepts Explored

- Fine Motor Skills
- Hand-Eye Coordination

What to Do

1. With an adult's supervision, set up a work space like a shop table in your garage or inside your home with a cloth underneath. You need enough space to spread out the tools and wooden board.
2. Take a wooden board and pre drill holes to fit your screws and bolts.
3. Find different types of screwdrivers and wrenches to practice with the screws, bolts and nuts. Take a minute to talk about the parts of the tools and what you notice about them. Adult should demonstrate how to safely use each tool then allow the child to use the tool.
4. Practice using the screwdriver to drive screws in/out of the board. Practice using the wrench to thread a nut on/off the bolt. Using repetition in this activity is the best way for kids to get better at using these tools. The goal is getting familiar with tools, not to make something. Have fun practicing!



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Troubleshooting Tips

- Use a firm grip when holding the tool.
- Use your thumb and index finger to hold the screw in place while using the screwdriver.
- Don't forget the phrase "righty-tighty, lefty-loosey".
- Adults- don't take over and do this activity for your child! Let your child practice using the tools and don't expect perfection.



What happens when you turn the screwdriver to the left? To the right?

Will other types of screwdrivers work to put in screws and take them out?

Which tool do you like using best?

What is Happening?

- This activity helps to develop **fine motor skills** which is the coordination of small muscles in your wrist and hands. When you hold a screwdriver or wrench, your brain coordinates your muscles with your vision, honing your **hand-eye coordination**.
- These small muscles are the same muscles we use for writing and drawing. This activity is great for developing **pre-writing skills** which are the basic skills that should be developed for the future ability to hold and move a pencil or crayon.

Taking it Forward

- **Connecting this activity to the real world:**

We use tools in everyday situations from cooking to repairing things to sewing. What tools can you find in your house? How are those tools used?
- **If you like this activity, you'll also like...**
 - [Journal Making](#) -practice using a hammer
 - [Simple Sewing](#) - practice using a sewing needle