

# Tools

This week, children will be exploring tools. They will talk about the tools that builders, artists, and children use. They will discover that tools make work easier and save time.

**Word of the Week:** tools

Tools are instruments we use to accomplish a task or get a job done.

Use the Word of the Week at home. You might ask: *What tools do we use to paint a picture? make a sandwich? plant a garden?*

**Tools All Around My House**

As you move through your day, call attention to the simple machines you use. For example, in the kitchen, notice the rolling pin (wheel and axle) and the cookie cutters (wedge). Children will enjoy finding the tools that you use both inside and outside the house.

**Cut It Out!**

Provide a pair of children's scissors and cut pictures from magazines with your child. Point out that scissors make cutting easier. They are a pair of simple machines (wedges) that work together. On another day, take a piece of scrap paper and challenge your child to cut it into small pieces. Using scissors takes a bit of practice, but it is a great way to improve fine motor skills and eye-hand coordination.

**Slice It Up!**

Provide a plastic knife and invite your child to help you cut bananas (or other soft fruit) for a tasty snack. Demonstrate how to hold the fruit with one hand and gently press down with the blade. Safety Note: Even plastic knives can cut little fingers. Supervise this activity closely and make sure that your child understands knives are to be used carefully and only with adult supervision.

**Measure It!**

Use small square crackers or cereal squares to measure the length of a spoon. Count the squares to see how long the spoon is. Compare the length of a spoon to the length of a fork. *How long is a wooden spoon or a spatula?*

**More Words to Know**

cut  
length  
lever  
measure  
slice  
wedge  
wheel and axle  
work

**Coming Next Week:** Children will be celebrating their imaginations.