

Activity Share: **Hammering Nails**

Age group: Preschool Age

Materials Needed:

- Safety goggles for children
- 4oz. Hammer (8" long)
- Wood sections to hammer (at least 6" long and 4" wide, 2" thick)
- Vice to hold wood to a table
- Roofing nails (they have a larger head)
- If you do not have wood, you can use a section of a tree stump.

Procedure: Safety is the most important focus for this activity. We review the requirement for safety when we introduce this process.

1. We discuss the importance in the use of goggles to protect our eyes.
2. We talk about the parts of a hammer: the head, claw, and handle. We let the child hold the hammer with the appropriate grip. We reinforce that the hammer is only used to hit the nails on the head or to remove nails that are not wanted.
3. We talk about the use and function of a vice grip, that it is used to secure the wood to the table; so the wood does not move.
4. We have the child help us to fasten the wood to the table with the vice.

5. To begin the procedure, we hold the nail while the child hits it with the hammer. When the nail is secure in the wood, we let the child hit the nail as far into the wood as they like.
6. We observe and talk about the parts of a nail; the head and the point. We talk about hitting the head of the nail with the hammer. Trusting the child with this process gives them empowerment.
7. ***Active supervision is required at all times.**
8. The children use several nails in their work throughout the activity.

