



# Woodworking with Early Learners

Tiny Tinkerers at the National Building Museum

[www.nbm.org/learn/families](http://www.nbm.org/learn/families) ▪ [family@nbm.org](mailto:family@nbm.org)

## Why woodworking?

The National Building Museum provides hands-on inquiry based experience to inspire curiosity about the world we design and build. Woodworking is an easy entry point into understanding the built world, and has several additional benefits:

**Emotional/Social:** Sense of competence, confidence, responsibility, respect for self and others, respect for materials and safety

**Physical:** Eye-hand coordination, strength, and fine-motor control

**Cognitive/Intellectual:** Mathematical thinking (size, shape, volume, measurement, directionality, geometry), engineering skills, creativity, and inventiveness

**Aesthetics:** The smell and feel of wood, the dusty friction of sanding something smooth, the contrast of warm wood and cold metal

Judith Pack, "The Power of the Woodworking Bench," Community Play Things, February 3, 2015.

## Using Tools with Toddlers

**Get to know your tools** Spend time exploring the shape and weight of the tools you're learning to use. Work with your learner to think about what these tools might be used for. Practice holding your tool correctly, and find a natural position that feels comfortable.

**Simple Practice** Rap, tap, and thwack without worrying about a product. Instead, take time to build hand eye coordination and refine your motor skills.

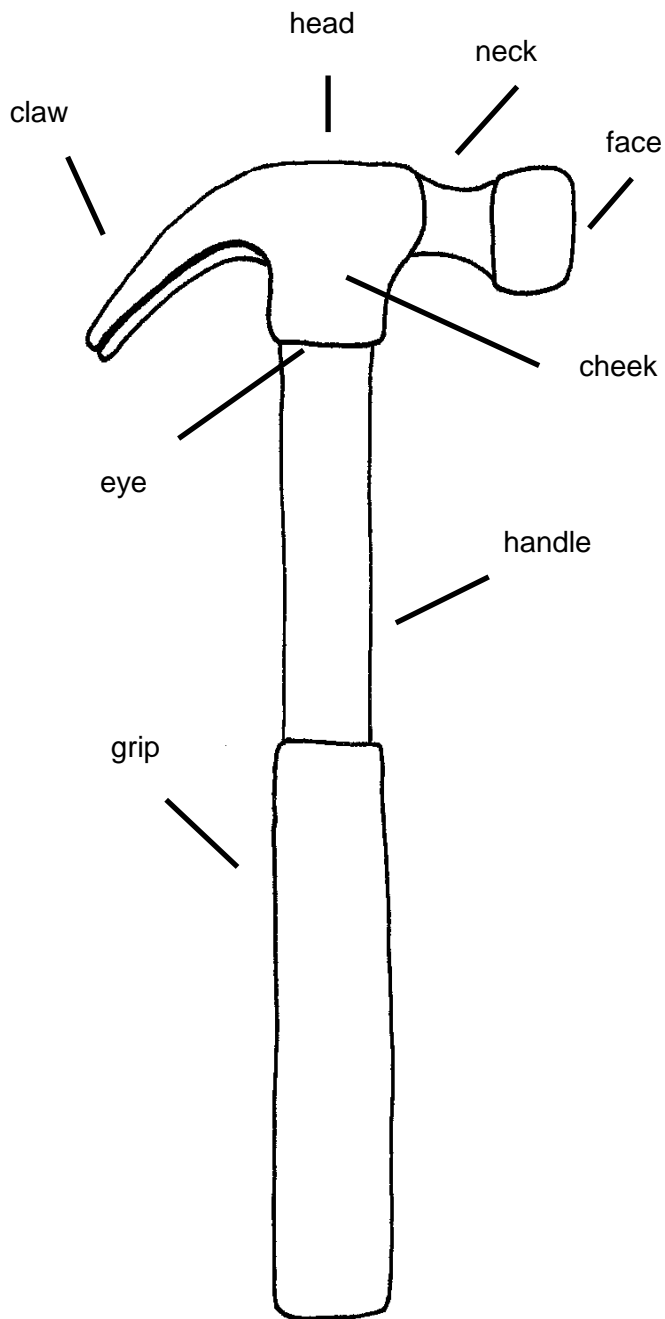
**Simple Construction** Apply your new skill and create a project of your very own. Don't get frustrated during this process— problem solve!

**Refine** As you practice your new skill you will grow in both confidence and ability.

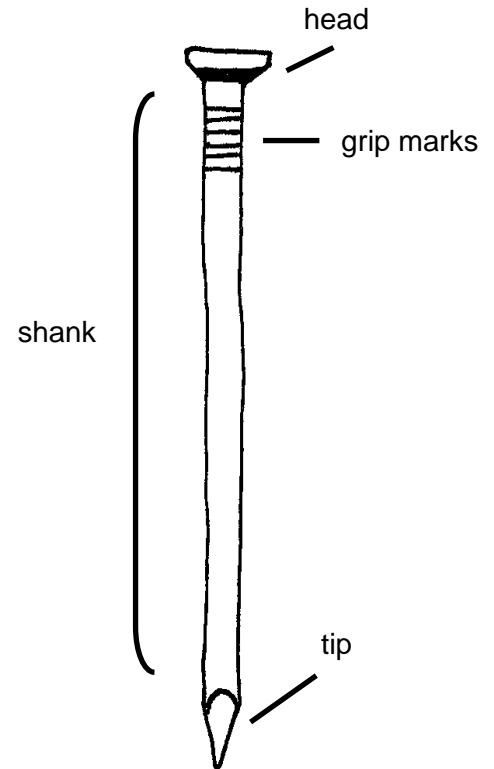


Photo by Kevin Allen Photography

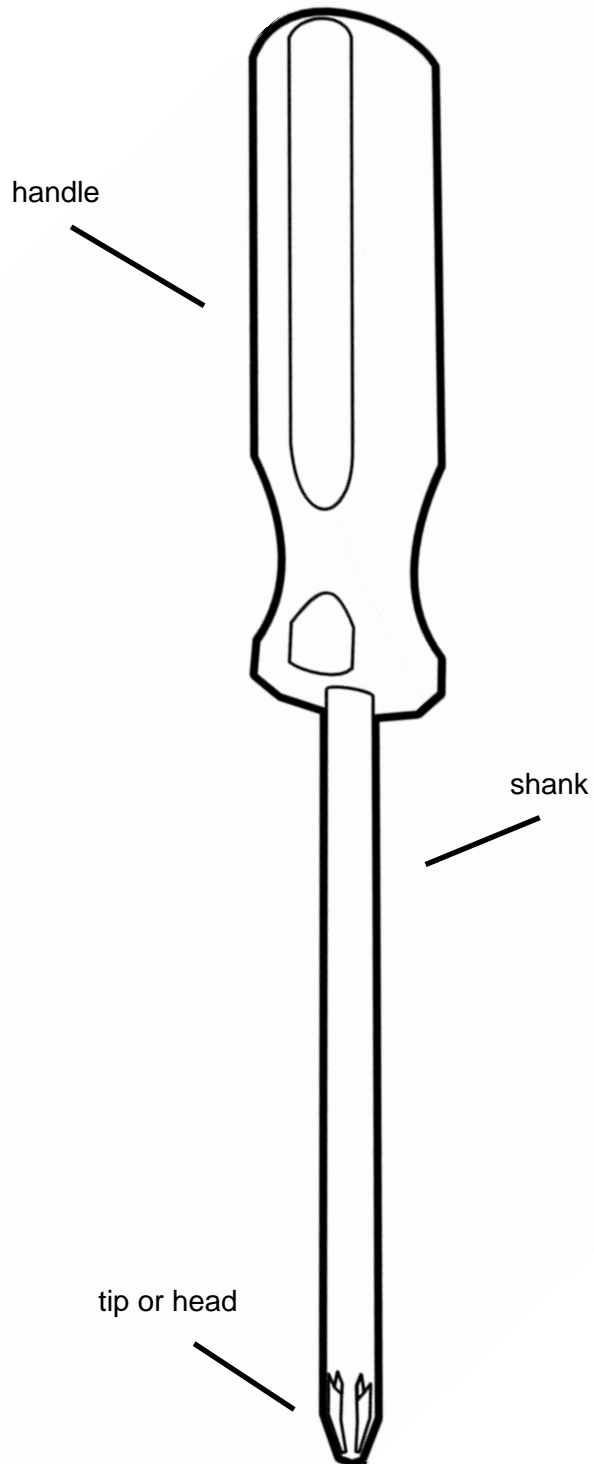
# HAMMER



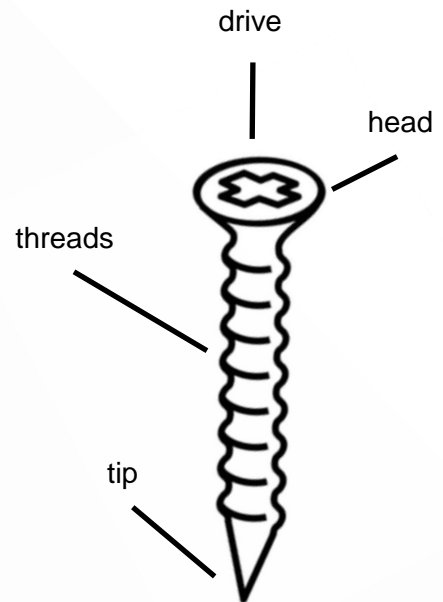
# NAIL



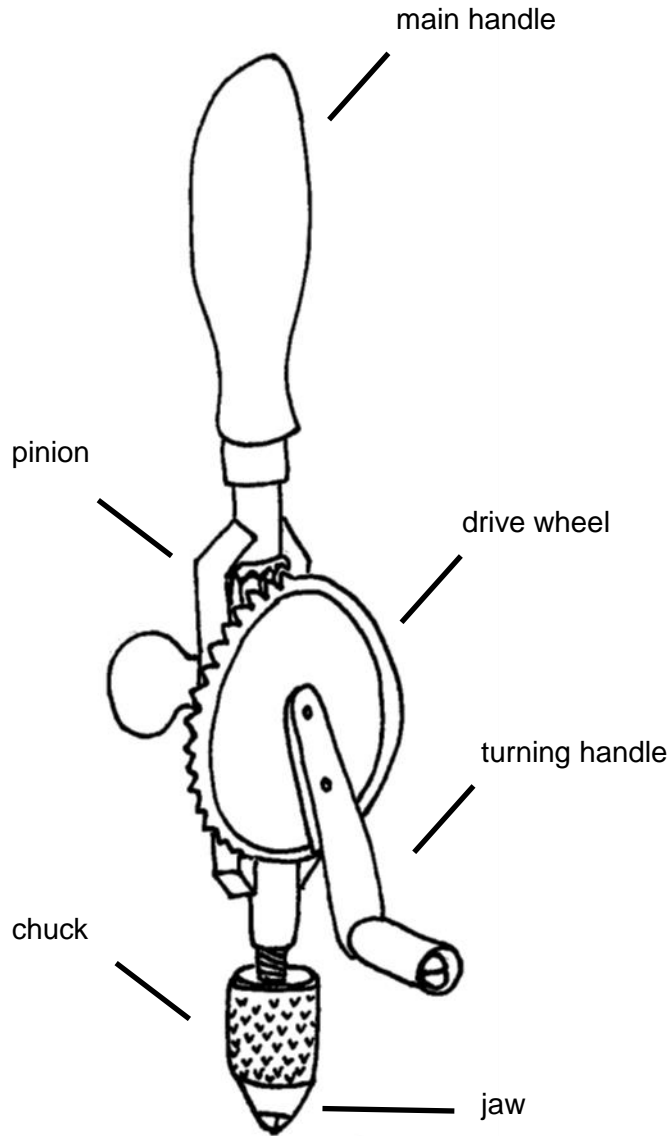
## SCREWDRIVER



## SCREW



## HAND DRILL



## DRILL BIT

