



WELCOME TO MAKE & GROW

BUILD #001

WINDOW HERB GARDEN PROJECT

A practical hands-on STEM and gardening project designed to develop creativity, practical skills and confidence.



WHO IS THIS RESOURCE FOR?

This project is suitable for:



Primary schools (KS1 & KS2)



Holiday clubs



Home educators



Alternative Provision



Parents and carers



SEND and SEMH learners



Forest School leaders



Practical STEM sessions



After-school clubs

HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

Learners complete the level that best suits their age and confidence.

LEVEL 1 DISCOVER



- Follow simple instructions
- Learn basic gardening skills
- Build confidence
- Adult support recommended

LEVEL 2 DESIGN



- Plan the project
- Measure and record
- Solve simple problems
- Reflect on learning

LEVEL 3 BUILD



- Plan like a real builder
- Measure accurately
- Use hand tools safely
- Evaluate quality
- Complete a practical project from start to finish

SKILLS DEVELOPED



Practical Skills



STEM



Creativity



Measuring



Observation



Problem Solving



Fine Motor Skills



Responsibility



Following Instructions



Teamwork



Plant Care

ABOUT MAKE & GROW WORKSHOP



This resource has been created by Make & Grow Workshop, providing practical learning experiences that help children develop confidence, practical skills and a love of hands-on learning.

LOOKING FOR MORE RESOURCES?

Explore more Make & Grow resources on TES.



LEARN MORE ABOUT MAKE & GROW WORKSHOP

Scan to learn more about Make & Grow Workshop



www.makeandgrowworkshop.co.uk

ABOUT THE DIFFERENT LEVELS



LEVEL 1 – DISCOVER

Perfect for younger learners or those new to practical projects. Simple steps with lots of support to build confidence.



LEVEL 2 – DESIGN

Adds more independence and planning. Learners measure, record and reflect on their learning.



LEVEL 3 – BUILD

For confident learners ready for a challenge. Using hand tools safely to build a strong, functional project.



We'd love to see your creations! Share your photos and tag us



Facebook: Make & Grow Workshop



Instagram: @makeandgrowworkshop



PRACTICAL LEARNING. REAL SKILLS. GROWING FUTURES.



TODAY'S BUILD #001

BUILD A WINDOW HERB GARDEN

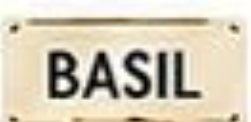


LEVEL 1

Let's build a simple herb garden that will grow on a sunny windowsill!

YOU WILL NEED

- 1 recycled plastic bottle or yoghurt pot
- Herb seeds (basil, chives or parsley)
- Compost
- Small stones or gravel (optional)
- Water
- Sticky labels
- Pencil



TOOLS

- Safety scissors
- Spoon
- Watering can or cup



1 PREPARE

- ☐ Wash your container.
- ☐ Ask an adult to help make a few drainage holes if needed.
- ☐ Write the name of your herb on a label.



2 BUILD

- ☐ Add a small layer of stones (optional).
- ☐ Fill the container with compost.
- ☐ Sprinkle a few seeds.
- ☐ Cover with a thin layer of compost.
- ☐ Water gently.



3 FIND A HOME

Draw a circle around the best place.



Sunny windowsill



Dark cupboard



Under the bed



Outside in heavy rain

4 MEASURE

Write down:

Height of container: _____ cm

Date planted: _____



5 LOOK AFTER YOUR PLANT

Tick each day you water your herb.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

DID YOU KNOW?

Basil, parsley and chives can all be grown indoors on a bright windowsill.



SKILLS YOU USE

- Following instructions
- Plant care
- Fine motor skills
- Observation
- Responsibility

KEY WORDS

Herb – a plant that is useful for food or medicine.

Seed – a tiny part of a plant that grows into a new plant.

Compost – food for your plants made from natural materials.

REFLECTION

My favourite part was...

I can't wait to see...

WELL DONE!

You have built the perfect start to your herb garden adventure!



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TODAY'S BUILD #001

BUILD A WINDOW HERB GARDEN



LEVEL 2

Your Challenge: Design and build a window herb garden that can grow two different herbs. Think carefully about where each herb will grow best and how you will look after it.

YOU WILL NEED

- Recycled plastic bottle, milk carton or food container



- Compost



- Two different herb seeds (e.g. basil, parsley, chives, mint)



- Small stones or gravel



- Water



- Sticky labels



- Ruler



- Pencil



- Optional decorations (paint, pens, stickers)



TOOLS

- Safety scissors



- Hole punch (or adult support)



- Spoon or small trowel



- Watering can



- Ruler



Great job, Maker!

1 PLAN YOUR HERB GARDEN



Draw your design.

Think about:

- Where will each herb go?
- Will you divide the planter into sections?
- Where will your labels go?

SKETCH BOX



2 BUILD

- ☐ Prepare your container.
- ☐ Add drainage holes.
- ☐ Add stones.
- ☐ Fill with compost.
- ☐ Divide the planter into two growing areas.
- ☐ Plant your herbs.
- ☐ Label each section.
- ☐ Water carefully.



3 MEASURE

Container height _____ cm
Container width _____ cm
How deep is the compost? _____ cm



4 MAKE IT BETTER

Choose at least three.

- ☐ Decorate your planter.
- ☐ Add a plant label.
- ☐ Draw watering instructions.
- ☐ Add your name.
- ☐ Add today's date.
- ☐ Create a colourful design.



5 PLANT CARE

How often should you check your herbs?

- ☐ Every day
- ☐ Once a week
- ☐ Once a month
- ☐ Never

HERB GROWTH DIARY

Week	Height (cm)	Leaves	Notes
Week 1			
Week 2			
Week 3			
Week 4			

DID YOU KNOW?

Many herbs can be picked again and again. If you only cut a few leaves at a time, the plant will continue to grow.



CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

1 Which herb do you think will grow the fastest?

2 Why do plants need sunlight?

3 Why are drainage holes important?

SKILLS YOU USED

- Planning
- Measuring
- Following instructions
- Plant care
- Observation
- Creativity
- Problem solving

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★ What went well?

REFLECTION
What would you improve next time?

What have you learnt about growing herbs?



TODAY'S BUILD #001

BUILD A WOODEN WINDOW HERB GARDEN



LEVEL 3

YOUR CHALLENGE: Design and build a strong wooden window herb garden that can grow three different herbs.
Plan your project, build safely and evaluate your finished planter.

MATERIALS

- Timber (offcuts or pallet wood)
- Wood screws
- Exterior wood glue (optional)
- Sandpaper
- Compost
- Gravel or stones
- Weed membrane (optional)
- Herb plants or seeds
- Wooden plant labels
- Paint or wood stain (optional)



TOOLS

GREEN TOOLS

- ☐ Tape measure
- ☐ Pencil
- ☐ Try square
- ☐ Safety glasses
- ☐ Sandpaper



YELLOW TOOLS

- ☐ Screwdriver
- ☐ Hand drill
- ☐ Clamp
- ☐ Hammer



RED TOOLS (Adult supervision only)

- ☐ Impact driver
- ☐ Jigsaw
- ☐ Mitre saw



1 RECEIVE THE JOB

Your customer wants a wooden herb garden that:

- ☐ Fits on a windowsill
- ☐ Holds three different herbs
- ☐ Is strong and stable
- ☐ Looks attractive

2 PLAN THE WORK

Draw your design. Label your measurements and think about drainage holes and where each herb will go.



CUTTING LIST

Part	Quantity	Length (cm)
Base		
Long sides		
Short sides		

DIMENSIONS

Length: _____ cm
Width: _____ cm
Height: _____ cm

3 BUILD IT

- ☐ Measure your timber.
- ☐ Mark your cutting lines.
- ☐ Cut each piece safely.
- ☐ Sand rough edges.
- ☐ Drill pilot holes.
- ☐ Screw the planter together.
- ☐ Check it is square.
- ☐ Add drainage holes.
- ☐ Line with weed membrane (optional).
- ☐ Add gravel to the bottom.
- ☐ Fill with compost.
- ☐ Plant your herbs.



4 QUALITY CHECK

Does your planter...

- ☐ Sit flat?
- ☐ Feel strong?
- ☐ Have smooth edges?
- ☐ Hold compost safely?
- ☐ Have drainage?
- ☐ Fit on a windowsill?



5 DECORATE

Choose at least two.

- ☐ Paint it
- ☐ Wood stain
- ☐ Burn or write your name
- ☐ Add plant labels
- ☐ Add a Make & Grow badge



PLANT GROWTH RECORD

Week	Height (cm)	Leaves	Watered	Notes
1				
2				
3				
4				

SKILLS YOU USED



CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- Why did you choose this design?

- How could you make it stronger?

- Which herb do you think will grow best?

REFLECTION

What went well?

What would you improve?

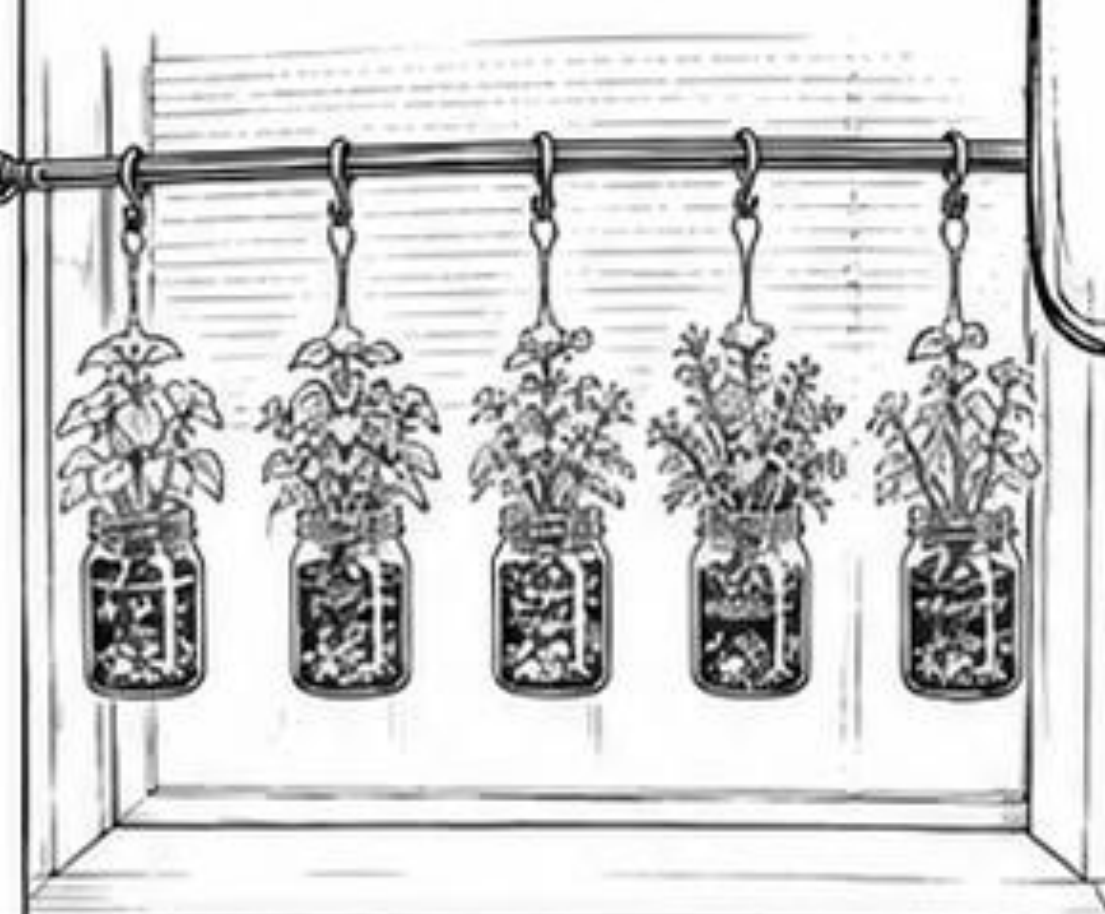
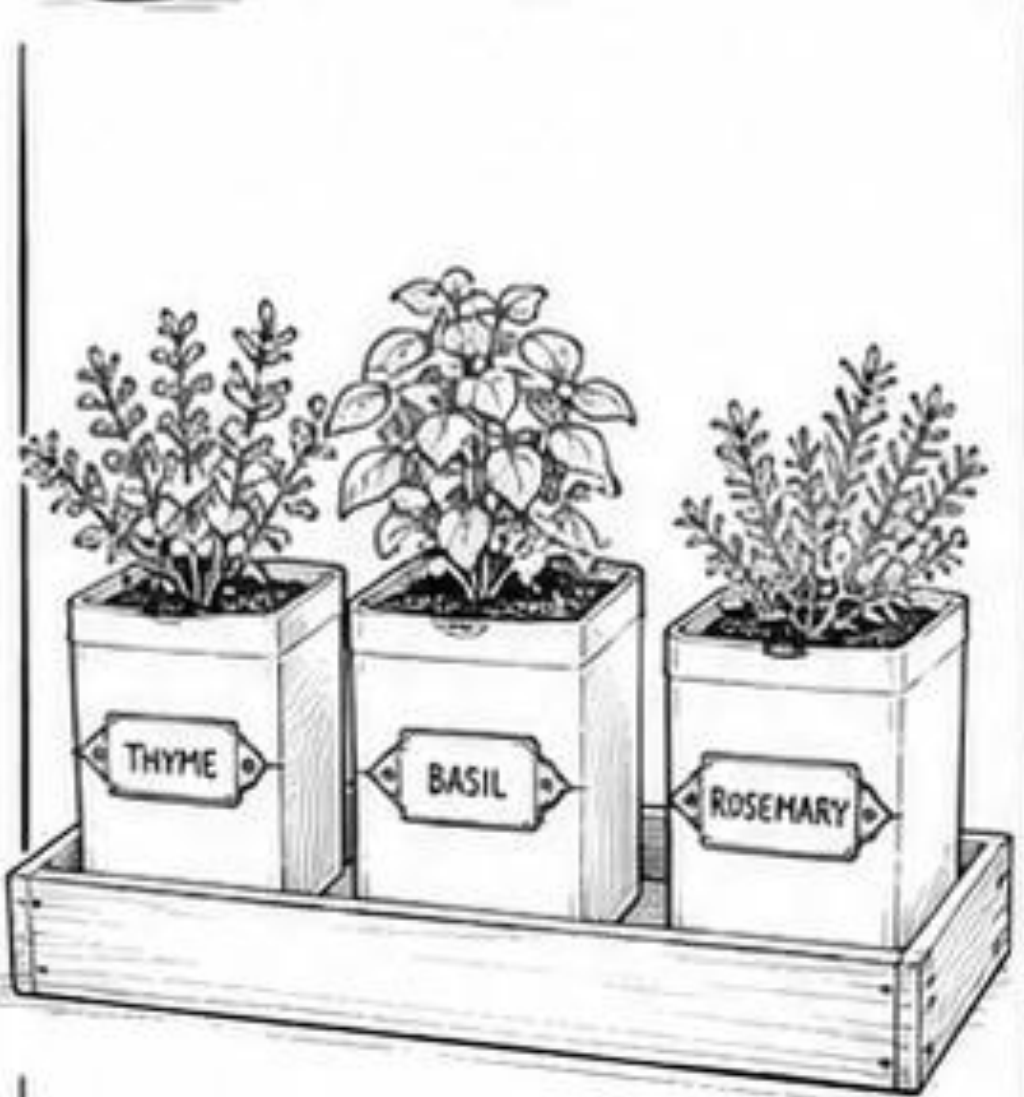
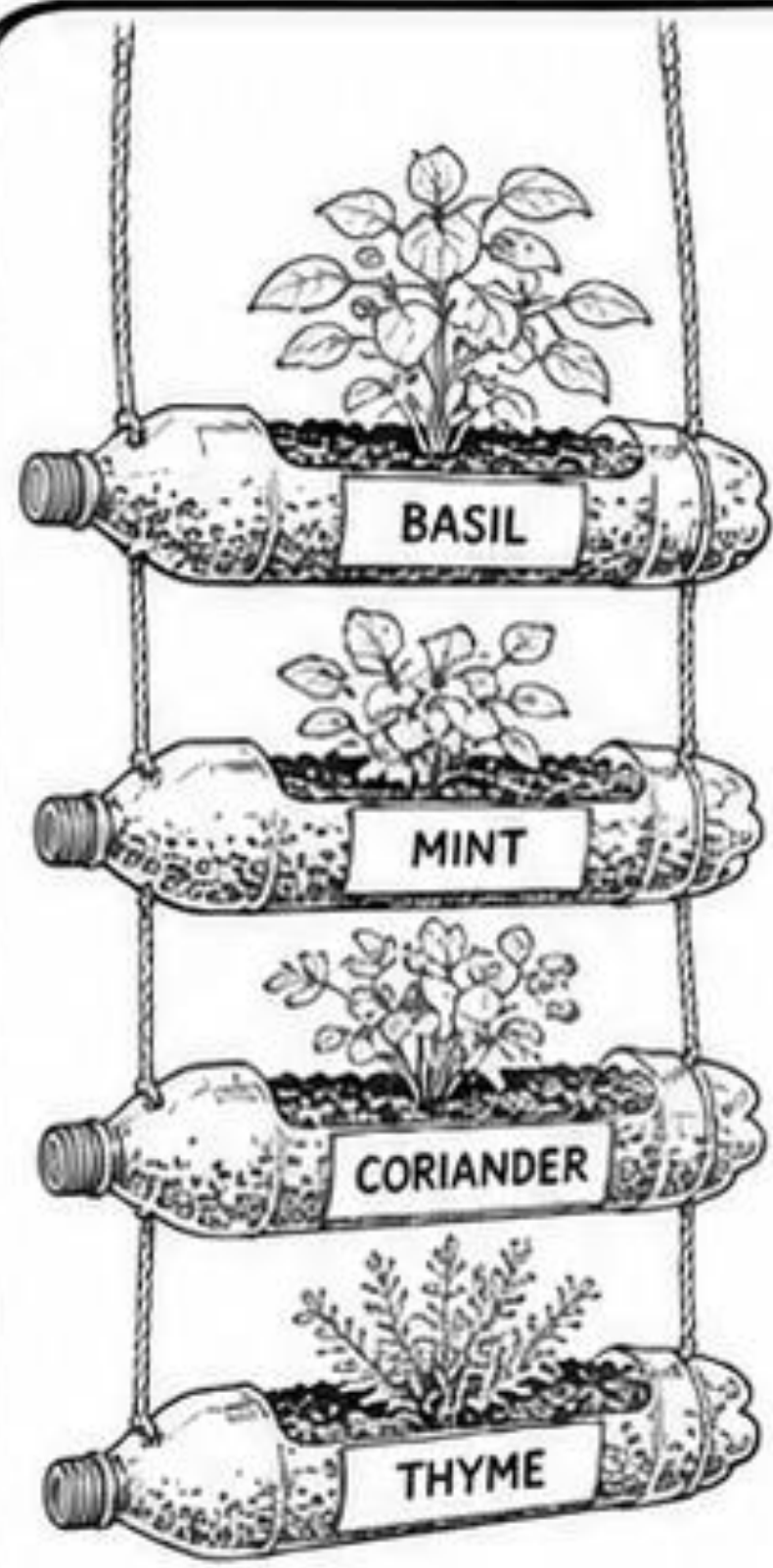
What new skill did you learn?

SCAN TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT MAKE & GROW
WORKSHOP



DESIGN YOUR OWN

Design your own window herb garden.
Use the space below to draw your idea.



Name: _____

FIND MORE
RESOURCES
ON MY WEBSITE! ➔





WINDOWSILL PLANTER GUIDE

Which plants grow best in a window planter?



PLANT	EASY TO GROW	BEST FOR	PROS	CONS
Basil	★★★★☆	Sunny windows	Fast growing, smells great, good for cooking	Needs lots of sunlight and regular watering
Parsley	★★★★★	Beginners	Easy to grow, can be picked for months	Slower to germinate
Chives	★★★★★	Beginners	Very hardy, grows back after cutting	Can spread if not trimmed
Mint	★★★★☆	Larger containers	Fast growing, lovely smell, great for drinks	Can take over other plants—best grown on its own
Coriander	★★★☆☆	Cooking	Great for recipes, quick to grow	Can bolt (flower) quickly in warm weather
Thyme	★★★★★	Sunny windows	Very hardy, drought tolerant, evergreen	Slow growing at first
Rosemary	★★★★☆	Sunny spots	Long-lasting, smells amazing	Doesn't like overwatering
Oregano	★★★★★	Beginners	Easy to grow, excellent for cooking	Needs regular trimming
Sage	★★★★☆	Sunny windows	Attractive leaves, useful herb	Doesn't like soggy soil
Dill	★★★☆☆	Taller containers	Fast growing, attracts pollinators outdoors	Can become tall and floppy
Lavender	★★☆☆☆	Bright sunny windows	Beautiful flowers, wonderful scent	Difficult indoors and dislikes too much water
Spinach	★★★★☆	Cool windows	Quick harvest, healthy leaves	Doesn't like hot sunny windows
Lettuce	★★★★★	Beginners	Very quick to harvest	Needs regular watering
Rocket (Arugula)	★★★★★	Beginners	Grows in around 3–4 weeks	Can become spicy if left too long
Cress	★★★★★	Young children	Ready in about a week, very easy	Very short lifespan
Spring Onions	★★★★★	Beginners	Can regrow from kitchen scraps	Need a little more depth than herbs
Strawberries	★★★☆☆	Sunny windows	Fun to grow, produces fruit	Needs plenty of light and feeding
Marigolds	★★★★★	Companion planting	Bright flowers, helps deter some pests	Decorative rather than edible
Nasturtiums	★★★★☆	Pollinator-friendly	Edible flowers and leaves	Can trail over the edge of the planter
Pea Shoots	★★★★★	Fast results	Harvest in 2–3 weeks, nutritious	Need continual sowing for a steady supply

★ BEST PLANTS FOR A CLASSROOM WINDOW PLANTER

- 1 Parsley – very forgiving.
- 2 Chives – difficult to kill.
- 3 Thyme – hardy and low maintenance.
- 4 Basil – exciting because it grows quickly.
- 5 Mint – children love the smell (grow in its own container).
- 6 Rocket – harvest within a few weeks.
- 7 Cress – brilliant for younger learners because they see results quickly.

✗ PLANTS TO AVOID WITH BEGINNERS

- Lavender (can be tricky indoors)
- Dill (grows tall and falls over)
- Mint mixed with other herbs (it will dominate the planter)
- Rosemary in very wet compost (it prefers drier conditions)

🌱 MAKE & GROW BUILD #001 6 GOLD STANDARD HERBS

For your Make & Grow Build #001, we recommend focusing on six reliable herbs that are useful in cooking and suitable for most classrooms and home learners.



These six cover a range of growing conditions and are dependable choices for successful windowsill planters.



TOP TIPS FOR SUCCESS



Most herbs need plenty of light.



Water regularly but don't overwater.



Harvest often to encourage growth.



Use good quality compost and containers with drainage holes.





RISK ASSESSMENT



Hazard	Who Could Be Harmed?	Risk	Control Measures
Scissors causing cuts	Learners, staff	Low	Use child-safe scissors where appropriate. Demonstrate correct use. Store safely when not in use.
Hand tools (Level 3)	Learners	Medium	Only trained learners use tools. Follow Make & Grow traffic light tool system. Adult supervision required.
Powered tools (Level 3)	Learners, staff	Medium	Adult or trained instructor only. Wear PPE. Maintain safe working distances.
Splinters from timber	Learners	Low	Inspect timber before use. Sand rough edges. Wear gloves if appropriate.
Lifting timber	Learners	Low	Use suitable sized timber. Demonstrate safe lifting techniques.
Flying wood dust	Learners	Low	Sand in well-ventilated area. Wear safety glasses. Dust masks if extensive sanding.
Soil and compost	Learners	Low	Wash hands after handling. Cover cuts. Avoid touching face.
Allergic reactions to plants	Learners	Low	Check allergies beforehand. Avoid known allergens. Have first aid available.
Water spills	Everyone	Low	Clean spills immediately. Keep walkways clear.
Trip hazards	Everyone	Low	Store materials neatly. Keep working area tidy.
Sharp screws or nails	Learners	Low	Count materials before and after. Store safely. Supervise use.
Manual drilling/screwing	Learners	Low	Demonstrate correct technique. Secure workpieces where possible.
Poor behaviour around tools	Everyone	Medium	Clear behaviour expectations. Remove tools immediately if unsafe behaviour occurs.
Infection from dirty recycled containers	Learners	Low	Wash and disinfect containers before use.
Pinch points when clamping	Learners	Low	Demonstrate correct clamp use. Adult supervision.
Fire (electrical tools)	Everyone	Low	PAT-tested equipment. Visual inspection before use. Keep liquids away from electrical equipment.



Below is a **generic** risk assessment.
As the facilitator/teacher, you will need to adapt it
to your area and learners.