



Pat Bordman

Right tools facilitate learning correct use

Blunt nose scissors. Dull knives. Toy hammers. These are the usual tools offered to children for their art projects and constructions. This is a great mistake.

Our fear of damaging little bodies actually sets children up for just that. A dull knife makes cutting even more slippery and difficult. A blunt scissor invites frustration in the cutting process. And a toy hammer requires much more force to do the job.

The sharper the tools and the more suited to the job at hand, the less likely they will cause injury and the quicker the job gets done.

Obviously, the tools must be scaled to fit the user as well as the job. An ax isn't appropriate to cut a tomato. For the child's size and ability, a sharpened paring knife, a needlepoint scissor or a small, but authentic, hammer are perfect.

This soap carving project allows the child to practice using real equipment. Close adult supervision is always necessary when children use sharp objects.

A soft, easy-to-cut rectangular shaped soap, a paring knife, nut pick, pocket knife, pencil and paper are needed. (Soaps that curve, are round, or have indentations are a little more difficult to carve.)

Some children enjoy the act of cutting into the soap and feeling the way the knife pushes through the bar. These



Using a tool skillfully requires not only learning the purpose for which it was designed but also how to maneuver it safely.

children don't really need to wind up with a finished product. For them, just whittling is enough.

Others, however, will want to fashion a representation of something from the world or their own imagination. These children should be guided to sketch their idea on a piece of paper the same size as the soap bar. Using this paper as a guide, they can begin to carve their design. Remember this is a three-dimensional representation. The child will have to cut out soap from the sides, top and bottom of the bar.

If a mistake is made, don't despair. Have the child gather some soap chips in his hand, moisten them and knead them together. Keep moistening until they become pliable, then add back to the bar where the mistake was made.

When the carving is completed, it can be smoothed out by rubbing water over it with the fingertips.

Patricia Bordman, a free-lance writer and photographer, has taught elementary school and conducted workshops and lectures on education. She is a master's degree candidate at Oakland University specializing in early childhood.

Mrs. Bordman welcomes suggestions and comments. Write her c/o the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

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Hospitals join forces against diabetes

Free blood tests to detect diabetes will be offered by 165 Michigan hospitals and health centers during Diabetes Detection Week, Nov. 16-22.

The statewide testing program is co-sponsored by the American Diabetes Association-Michigan Affiliate (ADAMA) and is open to people older than 18.

Diabetes can produce severe complications if left untreated, yet may be present without symptoms. An estimated 200,000 persons in Michigan are diabetic and don't know it, according to statistics gathered by ADAMA.

Persons who run a high risk of developing diabetes are over 40 years of age, overweight and related to diabetics.

"They should be checked once a year," advises Dr. Nancy Caputo, the ADAMA detection chairwoman for the year.

OAKLAND County residents may attend one of five participating hospitals for their free test.

Bolton Hospital in Farmington Hills gives the tests from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, Nov. 17-21.

Crittendon Hospital in Rochester will give the tests from 10 a.m. noon and from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 18-19, and from 10 a.m. noon and 1-3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21.

Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield will give the tests anytime, 24 hours a day, Sunday through Saturday, Nov. 16-22.

Providence Hospital in Southfield offers the tests from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19 only.

William Beaumont Hospital in Troy gives the tests from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. each

day, Monday through Friday, Nov. 17-21.

IN WAYNE COUNTY, the hospitals are:

Garden City Osteopathic Hospital hours are from 1:30-3:30 p.m. each day, Monday through Friday, Nov. 17-21.

St. Mary Hospital in Livonia gives the tests from noon-8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17 and Wednesday, Nov. 22, and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22.

Wayne County General Hospital in Westland offers the tests from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. each day, Monday through Friday, Nov. 17-21.

ing the test to ensure an accurate reading.

The suggested breakfast is fruit or juice, cereal with milk and sugar, buttered toast with jam, coffee or tea.

The suggested lunch is a bowl of soup, a sandwich, cake or pie and a glass of milk.

Nothing else should be eaten before the test, except for water.

The diabetes association asks that persons being tested bring along the name and address of their physician in the event that follow-up is needed.

All persons who test positively will be notified from the association, as well as their physician, within eight weeks.

The ADAMA is a nonprofit voluntary health agency, one of 50 affiliates of the association.

Other programs of the association are the support of research, a summer camp for diabetic children and teenagers, and education programs for diabetics, health professionals and the public.

volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, a program of the Volunteer Action Center of United Community Service, has weekly listings of volunteer opportunities. Further information about these and other volunteer needs at more than 200 agencies may be obtained by calling the bureau at 642-7272. Any non-profit organization needing volunteer assistance may also call the bureau.

CLAWSON, Farmington, Oak Park, Royal Oak, Southfield and Troy.

CAMBRIDGE CENTER SOUTH - Volunteers 18 and older with an ability to work with older people will be welcomed by the Cambridge Center South in Birmingham. They are needed to make friendly individual visits with residents in a nursing home setting, play card games, and assist in letter writing. Training will be provided in individual guidance, general information of specific points, needs and interests. Volunteers are asked to commit a seven-hour day, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays-Fridays. A car is required.

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