



CREATIVE WORKSHOPS & PROJECTS

make, play, discover

RISK & SAFETY GUIDANCE FOR:

AWLS & NEEDLES

- Awls are a sharp, pointy tool used to punch holes in paper, card and fabrics. They are used in processes like book binding so that you can pre-punch your holes and ease the stitching process. There are lots of type of awl, and [this link provides a useful guide to different types of book binding awls](#)
- Needles are used for stitching, and whilst they may seem innocuous, if used incorrectly they can injure you or someone else. The fact they are small are what can make them dangerous.
- When using any pointed, sharp tool, always work away from you. Never 'stab' towards your body, in towards your hand or on top of anything you don't want a hole in.
- Always use a cutting mat or a thick piece of card to protect your work surface and to catch the point of your awl or needle.
- Never leave an awl or needle lying around and always know where your tools are. Book making can become a messy process with lots of pieces of paper and scraps of fabric cluttering up your work space. When not in use, place your needle or awl in a tray so that you know where it is. Secure needles to a piece of card with masking tape when you have finished.
- If your needle snaps, it should be disposed of in a sharps bin or at your local tip. Never put needles directly in to your bin. If you cannot go to your local tip, then wrap it in newspaper, label it clearly, and place in a box that is also labelled.