

Script for leaders

Follow along with the video session for
‘Stand by me’.



Explain what you’re doing today, give everyone a bit of background information, and make sure they have what they need. You could say something like:

In this activity, we’ll be using practical skills and making our own decisions as we make a useful wooden stand for a teddy, phone, or other treasures.

Before we get stuck in, we’ll need a pencil, a ruler, a piece of wood about 148 by 210 millimetres, a wood saw, some sandpaper, a drill, and some wood glue. You’ll also need an adult to make sure everything (and everyone) stays safe. This clever design slots together, so you’ll only need a hammer, screwdriver, screws, or nails if you want to add something extra to your stand.

Explain that the first step is to decide what the stand will be for and refine the design. You could say something like:

First things first, decide what you’ll use your stand for and think about the design. Maybe you want to add a hole for a charging cord, for example, or maybe a nail or screw would be useful to hold something in place.

Tell everyone how to measure and cut out their first piece of wood. You could say something like:

Use a ruler to measure halfway along the piece of wood and mark a line to cut. Cut along the line with the saw and then use the sandpaper to smooth any rough edges.

Talk everyone through creating a slot in one of their pieces of wood. You could say something like:

Take one piece of wood and mark a rectangle that’s as wide as the wood is thick. This rectangle hole will become your slot.

Use a drill to make a hole inside the rectangle, to start cutting out the slot. Use a saw to make the hole a rectangle shape.

Explain that everyone should make their other piece of wood paddle-shaped, so the bottom is the same width as the slot. You could say something like:

Take the other piece of wood and mark out a paddle shape that looks a bit like a capital T. The bottom of the T should be the same width as the slot. Use the saw to cut the paddle shape out and use your sandpaper to smooth any rough edges.

Encourage everyone to check that their pieces of wood fit together before they use wood glue to stick them. You could say something like:

Check that the bottom of the T-shaped paddle fits into the slot you made: you may need to use the sandpaper to adjust the shape or size of one of the pieces of wood.

Slot the two pieces together and use the wood glue to make sure everything stays put.

All that’s left to do is to rub down the surfaces lightly with sandpaper then add any stain or paint (if you want to) to finish off your stand.

Help everyone reflect on what they’ve learned. You’ll find some tips on the activity page.