

## HAMMERING

**PURPOSE:** This activity helps the child develop their fine motor skills and to strengthen the hand for writing independence and concentration.

**DIRECTIONS:** For this activity you will need a large tree stump, hammer and nails. Invite the child to the hammering activity. Explain to the child that you are going to hammer a nail into the tree stump. The teacher, with their non-dominant hand, will position a nail on the top of the flat surface of the tree stump and then demonstrate how your fingers must be kept below the nail head for safety reasons. The teacher will gently tap the head of the nail with the hammer. When the nail feels secure in the stump, let go and continue hammering until the nail is in the stump completely. The child is then invited to repeat the activity on their own with more nails in the same manner

**EXTENSIONS:** You can vary this activity by using different sizes of nails and types of hammers as well as the types of wood. It can be modified for younger children by using golf tees for nails and Styrofoam instead of wood.

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