

We Skoolhouse



LOOSE PARTS GUIDE

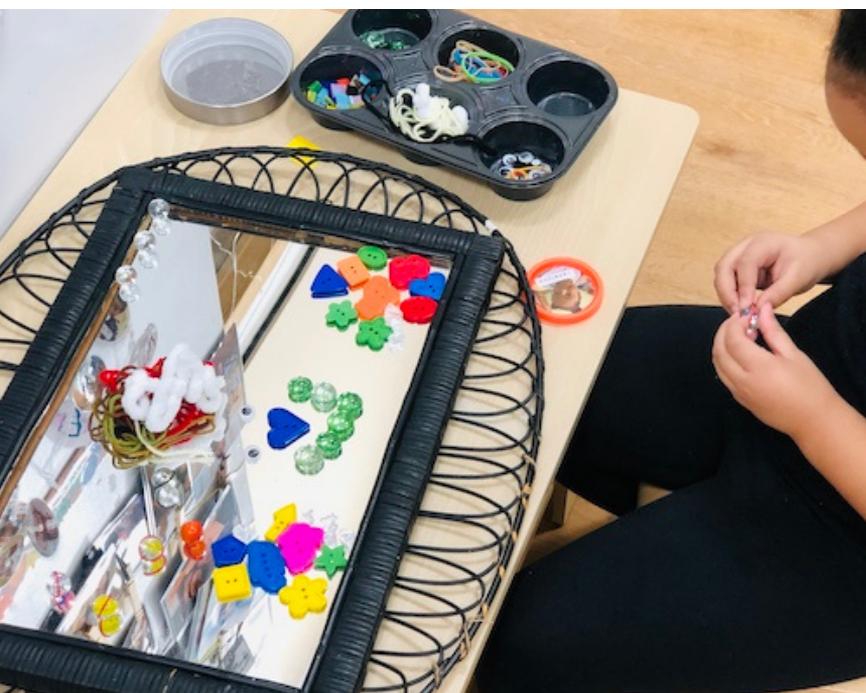


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“In any environment, both the degree of inventiveness and creativity & the possibility of discovery, are directly proportional to the number and kind of variables in it.”

- Simon Nicholson

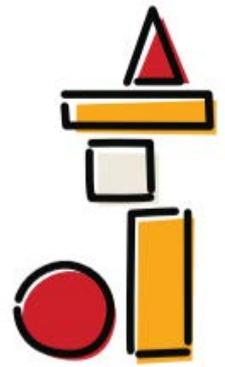


WHAT ARE LOOSE PARTS?

Loose Parts are everyday materials (synthetic or natural) that can be incorporated into your children's play - **and play is learning!** From recycled bottle caps, to fallen leaves on the ground, loose parts are open-ended materials that can be used (and reused) in limitless ways.



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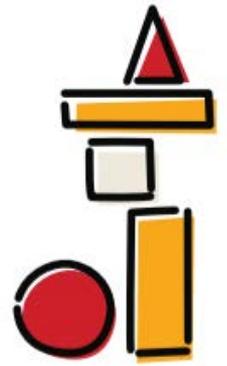
WHY ARE THEY MEANINGFUL?

Loose Parts do not have a set of instructions attached, but rather, they welcome children to explore, experiment, investigate, discover, compare and contrast, concentrate, construct, deconstruct, attach, detach, align, scramble, create, innovate, imagine, and wonder.

This engagement also prompts flexible thinking, as children will begin removing the specific association they have with the materials, and apply new meaning and uses for them.



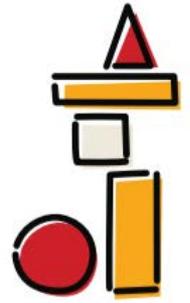
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LOOSE PARTS: INFANTS & TODDLERS

Filling a basket with everyday materials (that are not a choking hazard) can offer wonderful sensory-rich exploration. Remember to offer and re-offer the same materials over and over again!





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LOOSE PARTS: PRESCHOOLERS

Gathering and filling small compartments with loose parts (tinker trays) will welcome your preschooler to combine and create with various open-ended materials!



LOOSE PARTS LIST OF SUGGESTED MATERIALS: PLASTIC

Beverage Caps	Shape Tiles
Marker Caps	CD's/DVD's & Cases
Buttons	Funnels
Bottles	Egg Cartons
Beads	Cups
Straws	PVC Pipes
Loose Game Pieces	Rings/Curtain Rings
Hair Rollers	Bubble Wrap



LOOSE PARTS LIST OF SUGGESTED MATERIALS: **NATURAL MATERIALS**

Sticks	Sand
Rocks/Stones	Gardening Seeds
Leaves	Pinecones
Logs	Acorns
Wood Chips	Sweet Gum Balls
Flowers/Dried Flowers	Seashell/Sea Glass
Potpourri	Feathers
Dirt/Soil	Corks



LOOSE PARTS LIST OF SUGGESTED MATERIALS: FABRICS

Felt	Faux Fur
Rope	Burlap
String	Curtains
Yarn	Aprons
Twine	Carpet Samples
Cotton	Rubber Bands
Chiffon	Scarves
Silk	Velvet

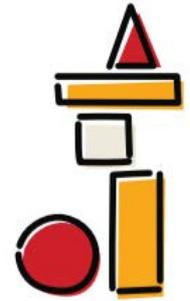


LOOSE PARTS LIST OF SUGGESTED MATERIALS: METALS

Cans	Wire
Lids	Magnets
Keys	Small Poles/Rods
Bracelets/Bangles	Forks & Spoons
Screws/Bolts/Nuts	Strainer
Washers	Pots & Lids
Old Jewelry	Muffin Tins
Chains	Old License Plates



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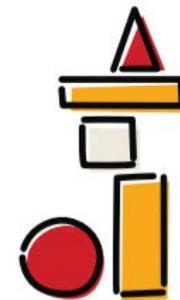
Storing + Organizing Loose Parts



Try incorporating an open shelving unit designated for loose parts. This will allow children to easily see and access their materials. Fill your shelves with various bowls, cups, and trays to fit, organize, and sort materials as they come in.



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Storing + Organizing Loose Parts (Cont'd)



No Space in your Shelving Units? No Problem!

Large storage bins can be a perfect “home” for your loose parts’ collection! You can use recycled cardboard to create dividers, or continue to utilize small bowls, bins, and containers to organize materials.

A great way to replenish your materials is by sending out monthly reminders to families. This way they’ll develop an “eye” for these everyday treasures and look to collect and donate them.

