



LOOSE PARTS PLAY

Play – Discover – Invent

INTRODUCTION

Loose parts are open ended materials that can be used alone or combined with other resources to support wide ranging possibilities for play. Children are naturally very curious and love to play, discover and experiment with loose parts. By nature they are very inclusive being easily adapted to suit children of all ages and abilities. With no specific set of directions and fuelled only by a child's imagination, the possibilities are endless.

WHAT WE NEED

Some examples are: cardboard boxes and tubes, food tins, lids, egg boxes, food containers

Fabric - shawls, scarves, ribbon, shoe laces, pillow case, sheet, blanket

Natural objects - pebbles, sea shells, pine cones, loofah, feathers, conkers

Household items - pegs, cotton reels, curtain rings, blocks, bangles, baskets, keys

Kitchen items - muffin tray, wooden spoon, measuring cups, metal spoons, ice cream scoop, wooden egg cup, ice cube tray.

WHAT TO DO

Make a comfy space with a blanket or cushion to support younger children. Make the resources easy to access and allow children to decide how they play with them.

Babies and toddlers explore through their senses and will naturally mouth objects. Choose larger items that cannot be swallowed and always remain close by, observing how they respond to the objects whilst offering gentle encouragement and support.

After play clean and discard any damaged items.

