

The benefits of loose parts play

Loose parts are a fantastic way to provide children with a great deal of learning opportunities as they are so open-ended. Loose parts can be made up of a range of different items and you can use larger pieces for younger children so it is safe.



Creativity

With such an open-ended resource the children can be creative with how they play, based on their own ideas. The children will see their own possibilities in the loose parts and use this to support their play. You will also get to see how the children think, and learn about their interests.



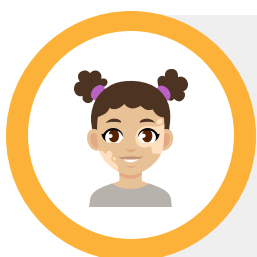
Classify

With such an assortment of different ways for the children to use they can classify the items based on their attributes. This could be based on size, colour, shape, texture, purpose, material they are made from. This should be in response to play, not forced on the children.



Meaningful

Having open-ended resources that allow the children to choose their own way to play can add meaning to the experience for the children. The wider the assortment of loose parts the more they are likely to invite children in and offer meaning to them in their play.



Child directed

By letting the children make choices and direct their own learning you can learn so much about the children's interests and ideas. You can learn where their skills are, where they may need support, and gain future planning ideas from the children within the loose parts play.



Extension of learning

You can add many different learning opportunities into the loose parts by selectively choosing items. A dice can support counting, letters can invite literacy, different shaped items can support shape awareness, items with faces (e.g. animals) can support language use through role play.