



Ask us why our logo is orange.  
#EveryChildMatters

# LEARNING OUTDOORS WITH LOOSE PARTS

## INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION

"A foundation principle of How Does Learning Happen is that children thrive in indoor and outdoor spaces that invite them to investigate, imagine, think, create, solve problems and make meaning from their experiences - especially when the spaces contain interesting and complex open-ended materials that children can use in many ways."

([HDLH 2014 Page.20](#))

## HOW DO YOU START TO INTRODUCE LOOSE PARTS INTO YOUR OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS ?



### Reflect:

- Think about the conversations you will have with the children and families when you introduce new materials and experiences.
- Are you modeling ways to use the equipment and playing along side the children? Are you modeling safety?
- Have you "risk assessed" all materials before you bring them into your setting?



### Think about:

- What Loose Parts play will involve? Start small and begin with materials you feel comfortable and confident with.
- How are the thoughts and ideas of the children represented in the materials and the environment?
- How are the children involved in the process?



### Consider:

- How will the materials be stored? Find storage that is easy for children to access themselves.
- How will the materials be maintained? Set up a schedule to regularly inspect the materials for repairs.
- How are the children using the materials? Based on your observations what materials can you add to expand their interests?

THRC'S RESOURCE LIBRARY HAS A WIDE VARIETY OF RESOURCES AND LOOSE PARTS TO BORROW AND/OR PURCHASE. MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO BOOK AN ON SITE VISIT OR CURBSIDE SUPPORT.



For more Information and Inspiration visit:

<https://www.abcee.org/sites/default/files/Loose%20parts%20manual.pdf>



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"Loose parts are open-ended materials such as clay, blocks, rocks that children can adapt, move, design and transform in many ways. The more flexibility a material or space has, the more opportunities these variables have for children's creative experimentation"  
Simon Nicholson

Connect with your Quality First Consultant to discuss these ideas and more!

## Additional Resources



Click on the image or visit [thrc.ca](http://thrc.ca) to explore THRC Podcast:

Episode 4: Resources, Loose Parts and Blocks, Oh My!

Episode 6: Exploring the Outdoors with Rusty Keeler

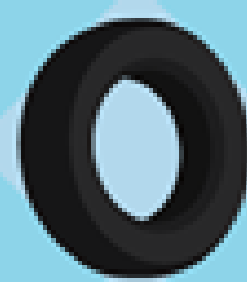
### Loose Parts Outside for Adventurous Play

Health and Safety Recommendations for Natural Materials and Loose Parts in Childcare Settings

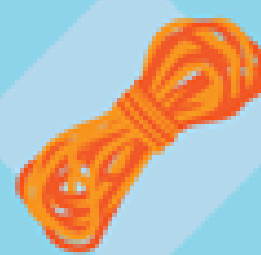
## What are Loose Parts?

Loose parts are important to children's play because they encourage imagination, creativity, and play in children in ways that traditional toys do not.

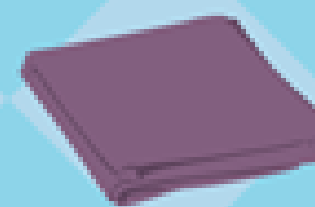
### Synthetic Loose Parts



Tires



Rope



Fabric



Buckets



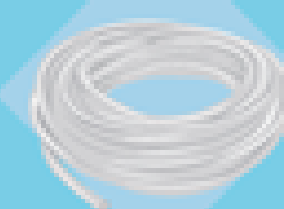
Pallets



Crates



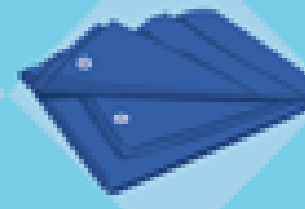
Baskets



Plastic Tubing



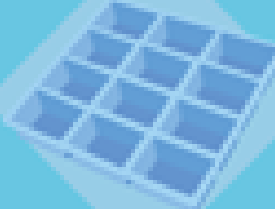
Cardboard Boxes



Tarps



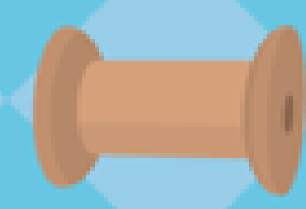
Flower Pots



Ice Cube Trays



Kitchen Items & Utensils

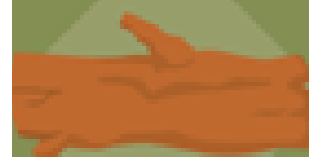


Spools



Plastic Bottles

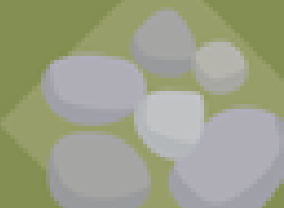
### Natural Loose Parts



Logs



Leaves



Stones



Pinecones



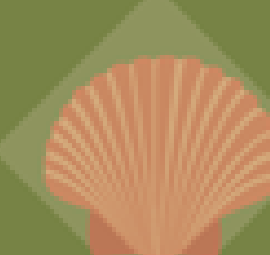
Sand



Sticks



Rocks



Shells



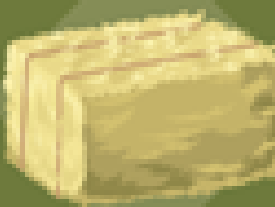
Flowers



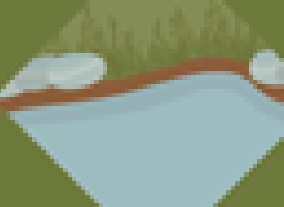
Stumps



Wooden Pieces or Blocks



Hay/Straw Bales



Water



Seeds/Nuts



Grass



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