

# Loose Parts Play – A Simple Start for Big Imagination

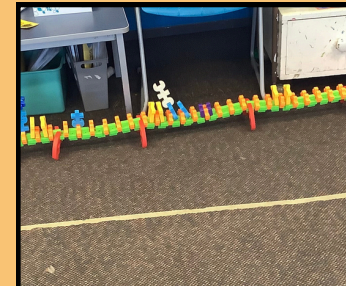


*Everyday items. Endless learning.*



## What Are Loose Parts?

*Loose parts are open-ended materials children can move, build with, take apart, and reimagine in their own way. They're often free, recycled or natural — and power up creative, active play.*



## Why Use Loose Parts?

- ✓ Boosts problem-solving and imagination
- ✓ Encourages independence and confidence
- ✓ Helps develop coordination and motor skills
- ✓ Low cost, high creativity



## What to Collect at Home or in the Community

**Natural:** Pinecones, acorns, feathers, pebbles, stones, shells, seed pods, leaves, sticks and twigs, bark pieces, flower heads and petals, mud, water, snow, ice.

**Household/Recycled:** Cardboard boxes, tubes, bottle caps, egg cartons, plastic containers, roil trays, yoghurt pots, pegs, wooden spoons, muffin tins, fabric scraps, old handbags, backpacks, pillowcases, keys, old buttons beads, pipe cleaners, paper clips, CD/DVDs.

**Larger Bits:** Logs, Tree stumps, wood rounds, driftwood, branches, bamboo poles, hay/straw bales, thick rope/vines, wooden pallets, planks, cable reels, plastic crates, tyres, hula hoops, PVC pipes, carpet/fabric offcuts, old suitcases/trunks, blankets, sheets, tent poles.

## Top Tips for Getting Started

- Create a safe “yes space” to explore and build
- Rotate materials to keep it fresh
- Follow their play urges (lining up, throwing, enclosing)
- Ask family or neighbours to donate clean, safe items
- Remember: There's no 'right way' to play — that's the point!



**“When we give children time, space, and bits and pieces, they show us what learning looks like.”**

— Inspired by the work of Longworth Education

