

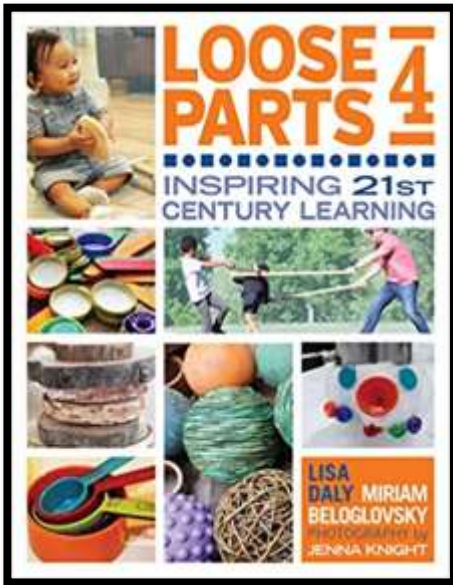
Branching Out

Resource Updates to Support the Growth and Goals of Educators



The ECCDC has been working hard to incorporate loose parts into our Provocation for Learning kits and source out innovative resource books to support educators with loose parts play. Let's have a look at just a few!

Resource Books Available for Borrowing



Loose Parts 4 – Inspiring 21st Century Learning

Lisa and Miriam explain the value of loose parts, detail how to integrate loose parts into the environment and children's play, and specifically focus on loose parts for children in family environments. This helps educators engage families and extend learning beyond the classroom knowingness, engagement, risk, connections, leadership, innovative thinking, and creativity.



Loose Parts Play

The Toolkit will be useful for people working with children and young people across all age ranges, in many types of settings including schools, health and early learning and child care settings, and for the many organizations that seek to engage children and families. This may include those who design or manage public spaces and visitor attractions, the creative sector, event organizers and businesses which provide services to families.



Provocation Ideas Using ECCDC Resources

Here are a couple newly developed Loose Parts kits with some provocation ideas for using them with children. The first one is **Exploring Transient Art with Young Children**. Transient art is non-permanent, constantly evolving, and process orientated creativity in action. When children work on transient art projects they manipulate, explore, and experiment as they work individually or collaboratively, on either large- or small-scale artworks. This Provocation for Learning kit offers a wide range of loose parts to utilize in creating transient art; however, depending on how the materials are displayed for children, there are many different learning outcomes that could develop. Did you know transient art can also be done in nature with found materials and left for others to enjoy and add to?



This second kit is **Exploring Loose Parts with Preschoolers**. This provocation for learning kit offers a variety of natural and synthetic loose parts. The learning possibilities are endless but below we are highlighting an example of how the materials can be used for building and sorting.



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Check out ECCDC's YouTube Channel

We recently added a video of our Summer Intern, Emily Farr, and ECCDC Staff Member, Jenn Mosher, creating activities using loose parts found at home. [Click here](#) to have a look, share with your colleagues, and subscribe to our channel.



Farr Out Findings

I find myself marveling at the fact that children can spend hours on end with the simplest of materials such as rocks, cardboard boxes, water, seashells, or pinecones. Loose parts create this type of meaningful play and inquiry as they are open-ended materials that can be used in endless ways.

You may be thinking, "Well how do I begin to gather these loose parts without purchasing them?". That is the wonderful thing about loose parts; they don't have to be costly items. You can gather loose parts in your home, outdoors, through friends and family, the community, etc.

Once loose parts have been gathered, the real magic begins! As children begin to play with loose parts, infinite skills are developing such as:

- Problem-solving
- Hand-eye coordination
- Fine and gross motor development
- Creativity
- And much more!

Loose parts play presents the educator, children's families, and the children with numerous benefits as they are cost-efficient, promote healthy childhood development and foster imaginative play. Below you will find some ways you can set up loose parts play to spark children's natural sense of curiosity!



Exploring Cardboard

When collecting cardboard, choose a variety of sizes and shapes. Look for large, sturdy, flat pieces to enhance your collection. Try turning the boxes inside out so that the children have a blank canvas to work with. Consider offering paint, paint brushes, markers, rulers, and tape to spark their creativity.

Exploring Circles

Encourage your families to save the caps from jars, spices, drink bottles, etc., and donate them to your centre. These materials are easily washed and offer a wide range of learning opportunities. Sorting, classifying and three-dimensional art inquiry are just a few examples.



Exploring Natural Materials

Children love to collect and explore materials from nature which makes growing your natural loose parts collections very easy. Items to enhance your natural material provocations could include frames, mirrors, sorting trays (like this muffin tin), flashlights, magnifying glasses and measuring tapes. You could also include materials for documentation such as clipboards, paper, and writing instruments.

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Research is Key with Veronica P.

The ECCDC's Student Intern, **Veronica Parhizgar**, has been supporting the Coaching & Mentoring team researching and developing a new training series that will be offered in the Fall. We are thankful that she was able to share these valuable links she found during her research that support Loose Parts Play.

Loose Parts Info

- A Community Guide to Nature Play: [click here](#)
- Loose Parts Play: [click here](#)
- Loose Parts and Intelligent Playthings Categorized by Schema: [click here](#)
- Loose Parts: What Does This Mean? [click here](#)
- The Theory of Loose Parts: [click here](#)

Health & Safety considerations

- Alberta Health Services: Health and Safety Recommendations for Natural Materials and Loose Parts in Childcare Settings: [click here](#)
- Canadian Public Health Association: Loose Parts Policy: [click here](#)



Loose Parts Play Can Happen Anywhere!



Resources Available on our E-store

Looking for more inspiration for loose parts play? [Click here](#) to have a look at what is available in our E-store.

