



Presents ...

The Resource Exchange

News from the ECCDC Lending Library

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Loose parts play encourages creative and critical thinking in children of all ages by providing them the opportunity to use their imagination and experiment with new ideas freely. By not directing children on how to use the loose parts provided, educators create endless possibilities and invite creativity.



Provocation for Learning Kits Available for Borrowing



Washable Loose Parts

This kit provides a wide variety of loose parts that are not only washable, but encourage sorting, matching, building, and stacking activities with young children.

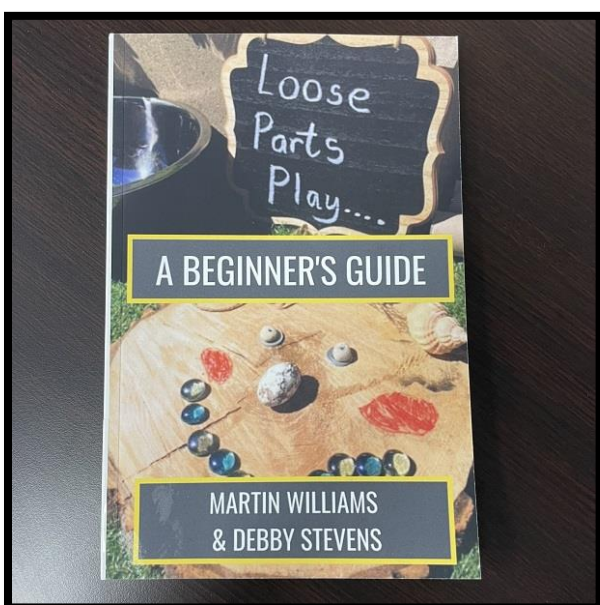


Children Explore Building & Construction with Loose Parts

This kit includes a variety of loose parts chosen with the concept of building in mind. A great addition to your block play area to encourage creativity when creating structures.

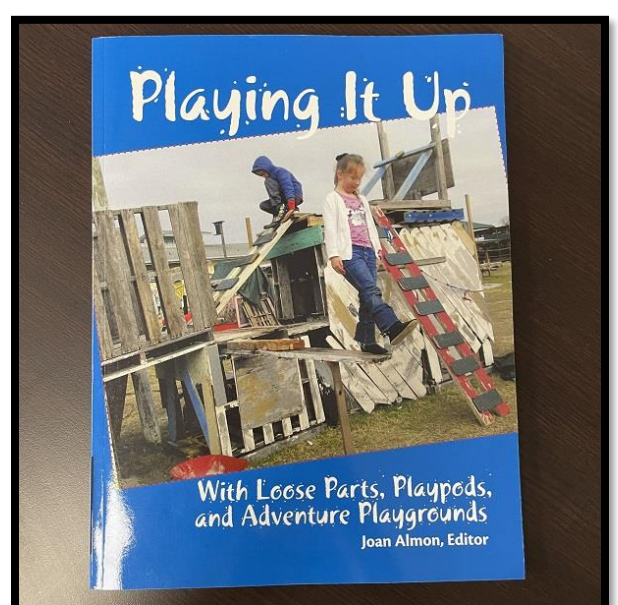


Literature Resources for Early Learning Educators to Borrow



Loose Parts Play...A Beginner's Guide Martin Williams & Debby Stevens

Bursting with more than 200 practical ideas, activities, and provocations, 'Loose Parts Play – A Beginner's Guide' is the perfect handbook for teachers and parents of children from 0-5 who are looking to develop an outstanding loose parts curriculum either at work or at home.



Playing it Up with Loose Parts, Playpods, and Adventure Playgrounds Joan Almon

Child-initiated, creative play is returning after decades of erosion. Through the hard work and dedicated efforts of play activists, new opportunities for play are arising, including the use of open-ended play materials in schools, parks, nature centres, and adventure playgrounds. Over 20 play initiatives are described in this book, with dozens of photographs that illustrate the power of play.





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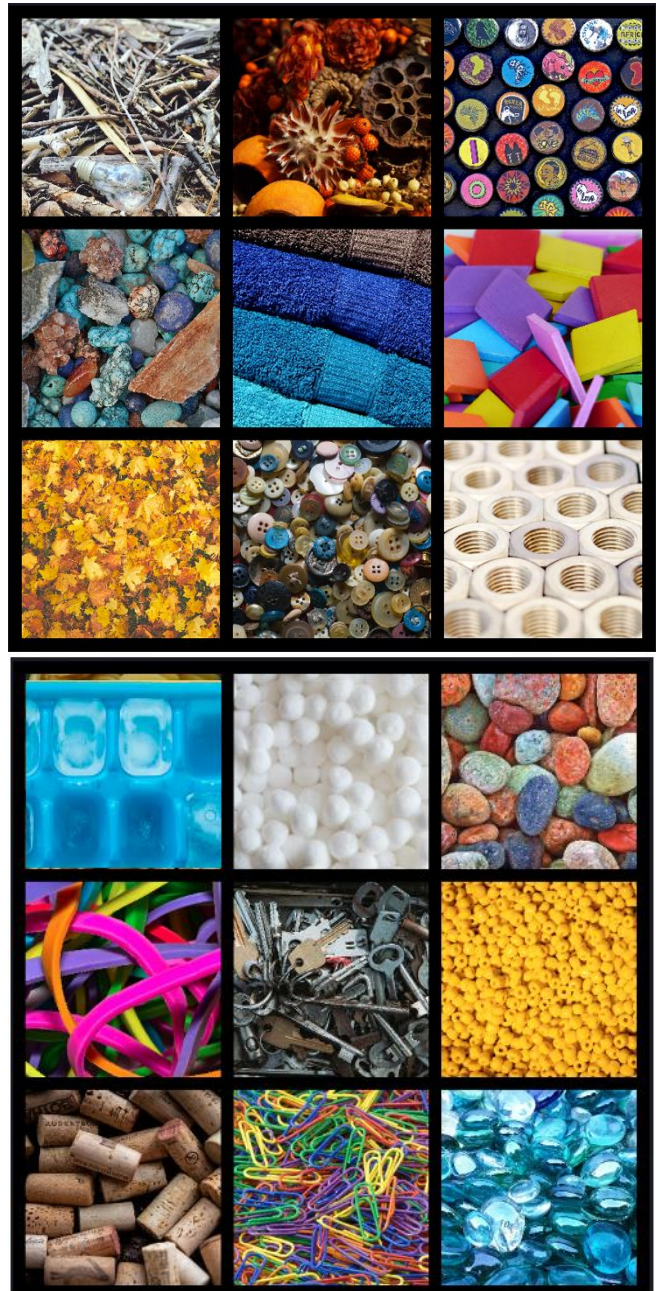
Sarah's Scope

Sarah McTavish, ECCDC Summer Intern (2022)

A variety of found and sourced items can be added to a loose parts centre to be explored and investigated by children! Loose parts refer to beautiful, unique, and found materials that children can move, sort, manipulate, control, change, stack, and transport while they play. Nearly anything can be used as loose parts, but here is a list of some common ideas!

Top 20 must have items to add to your Loose Parts Centre

- Metal Bits
- Naturalistic Vase Filler
- Bottle Caps
- Beachcombing Finds
- Scraps of Fabric
- Wooden/Foam Shapes
- Natural Items
- Buttons
- Large Metal Nuts
- Ice Cube Trays
- Cotton Balls/Pom Poms
- Assorted Rocks
- Rubber Bands
- Keys
- Assorted Beads
- Corks/Stoppers
- Paper Clips
- Glass Beads
- Spools
- Plastic Cups



Ensure that items are developmentally appropriate for the ages of the children you work with.

Concerned about using loose parts that are not washable? Here are some ideas to help create a Washable Loose Parts Centre

1. Choose plastic and metal parts that can be washed
Loose parts can be chosen intentionally, with cleanliness in mind! Metal bits, plastic caps, and plastic figures are great items to include, as they can be hand washed or thrown in the dishwasher! Avoid wooden or natural parts, as these cannot be disinfected.
2. Provide washable utensils for tinkering
When selecting utensils for your loose parts lab, avoid wooden spoons and scoops and stick to plastic and metal spoons, scoops, and tweezers. These items can be easily and frequently washed.
3. Provide a "dirty bin"
To limit cross-contamination, provide a dirty items bin which children can fill with the items they used in their tinkering session. At the end of the day, this bin can be emptied, and the contents can be washed.
4. Wash used parts after use with child-safe cleaners
Frequently disinfect loose parts with cleaners that are made with natural and child-safe ingredients. This ensures that if the loose parts come in contact with children's mouths, toxins are not an issue.
5. Encourage hand washing before and after loose parts play
Encourage children to wash and disinfect their hands before and after playing with the loose parts to limit contamination. Teaching proper hand washing protocol is key!