

# Loose Parts Play

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# History of Loose Parts Play

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- Theory presented by architect Simon Nicholson in 1971:
  - “As long as materials can be moved, redesigned, put together, and taken apart in a variety of ways, they are classified as loose parts.”



# Developmental Domains

Critical thinking; numbers, classification, spatial relationships, solving problems

Gross motor, fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination



Organization of materials

Belonging; inclusiveness; passion; risk-taking; productive; decision-making

Vocabulary, discussion, sound words

# Seven types of loose parts materials

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Collected in *Loose Parts: a Start Up Guide*

by Sally Haughey and Nicole Hill

# Nature Based

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- Sticks
- Rocks
- Dried Flowers
- Leaves
- Seeds
- Sand
- Dirt
- Pinecones
- Acorns
- Pods
- Logs
- Sticks
- Peach Pits
- Feathers
- Wood cookies
- Wood chips
- Squash
- Sweet Gum Balls
- Anise Stars
- Cinnamon Sticks
- Nutmeg
- Moss
- Shells

# Wood Reuse

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- Corks
- Clothespins
- Pegs
- Wooden Beads
- Golf Tees
- Chair Legs
- Dowels
- Wooden Blocks
- Hardwood floor scraps
- Candlesticks
- Napkin rings
- Wood people
- Thread spools
- Wood scraps
- Wood pegs
- Scrabble pieces
- Spools
- Wood frames
- Rings
- Puzzle pieces

# Plastic

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- Milk Caps
- Bottles
- Gerber food containers
- PVC pipes
- Reels
- Empty spice containers
- Bubble Wrap
- Cones
- Lollipop sticks
- Film canisters
- Curtain rings
- Hair rollers
- Straws
- CD cases
- Game pieces
- Beads
- Buttons
- Funnels
- Maker Caps
- Plastic bead necklaces
- Golf balls
- Cups
- Hula hoops
- Bag clips

# Metal

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- Nuts and bolts
- Washers
- Tin foil
- Old gadgets
- Bangles
- Curtain rings
- Muffin tins
- Potato mashers
- Silver beads
- Gutters
- Magnets
- Keys
- Bottle tabs
- License Plates
- Forks and spoons
- Links
- Metal lids
- Thimbles
- Soda can tabs
- Thread spools
- Door knobs
- Discs
- Hair clips
- Candle sticks
- Tubing
- Cans
- Spoons

# Ceramic and Glass

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- Ceramic tiles
- Glass Beads
- Gems
- Marbles
- Prisms
- Slate
- Tiles
- Tiny bottles
- Flower pots
- Granite scraps
- Cabinet door knobs
- Small mirror discs
- Sea glass
- Glass vase beads
- Drawer knobs
- Balls

# Fabric, Yarn, Ribbon

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- Chiffon
- Twine
- Ribbon
- Silk
- Wool
- Scarves
- Flags
- Burlap
- Yarn
- Embroidery thread
- Felt pieces
- Doilies
- Lace
- String
- Rope
- Rubber bands

# Packaging

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- Packing Peanuts
- Bubble Wrap
- Boxes
- Cardboard scraps
- Paper rolls
- Wrapping paper
- Painters tape
- Egg cartons
- Ribbon wheel
- Cereal boxes
- Paper scraps

# Loose Parts Play in Action

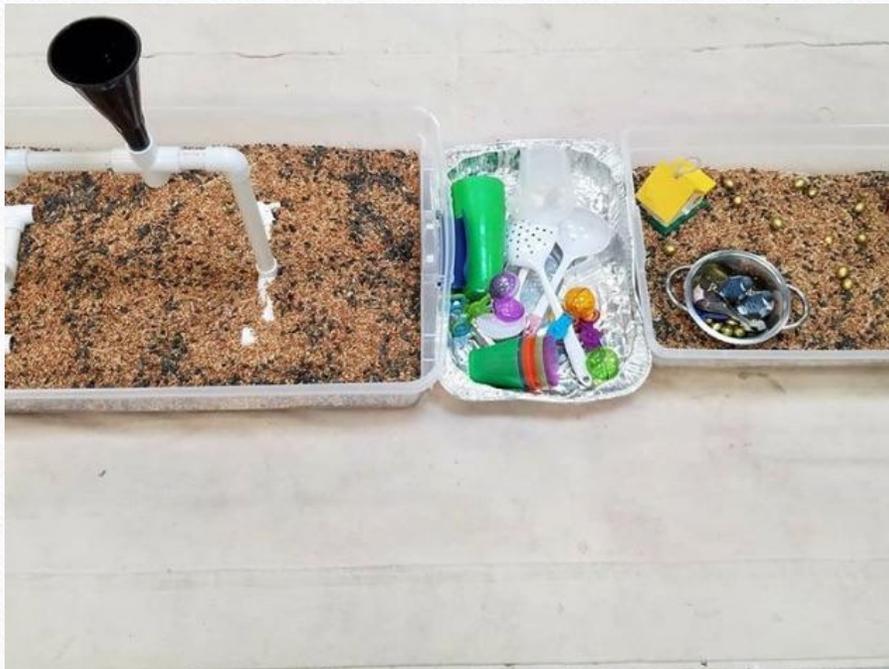
- <https://vimeo.com/185688967>



# Loose Parts play at LFPL!



# Loose Parts at LFPL!



# Loose Parts at LFPL!

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The Three Pigs by David Wiesner



Shredded paper, pipe cleaners, red Legos



# Loose Parts at LFPL!

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Experiencing loose parts play after  
book sharing



Building the brick houses!



# Loose Parts at LFPL!









# How do I organize all that STUFF??

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# Things to consider...

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- Pay attention to choking hazards
- Be ready to prep parents for something “new”
- Nature-based elements may have a shelf life
- Be aware of your space and storage
- Create an invitation to play

Let's discuss the differences:

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# Resources:

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- <https://fairydustteaching.com/blog/> download free eBook **Loose Parts: A Start Up Guide**
- *Loose Parts: Inspiring play in young children* by Lisa Daly and Miriam Beloglovsky
- *Loose Parts 2: Inspiring play with infants and toddlers* by Lisa Daly and Miriam Beloglovsky
- Pinterest (of course!)

# Let's play!

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3 stations:  
Cookie Making  
Building  
Faces