



# LOOSE PARTS

South Shore Active  
Communities 2020

# WHAT ARE LOOSE PARTS?

Loose parts are open ended materials that can be assembled, combined and manipulated in a variety of ways and have no predetermined play pattern.

The value of Loose Parts is that they can be redesigned and repurposed as the individual sees fit.

They may be used alone, or in addition to other materials.

They can be synthetic or natural materials and many treasures can be recycled items.

# LOOSE PARTS SHOULD BE...

Open ended and allow children & youth to experiment

Made available and easily accessible for children & youth so they can use them independently

Well maintained and set out in rotation

# EXAMPLES OF LOOSE PARTS

## Examples of Loose Parts for Playgrounds

Natural	Manufactured	
Stumps	Tires	Hula hoops
Sand	Plastic drainage tubes	Ribbons
Gravel	(construction)	Milk crates/ wooden boxes
Twigs	Ropes	Nets
Wood	Buckets	Wooden planks
Straw bales (seasonally)	Tea pots	Old baking pans, large utensils
Driftwood	Child size garden tools	Tarpaulins
Cornstalks (seasonally)	Fabric, rip stop nylon (shower	Ribbon Wands
Seeds	curtains, not plastic)	Sacks (burlap)
Acorns	Baskets	Scarves
Stumps	Crates	Scoops
Logs	Boxes	Pallets
Large wooden blocks	Carabiners to use with ropes	Balls
Shells and	Rope	Buckets
Seedpods	PVC tubes	
Medium size stones		
Bamboo		

**NATURAL**



**FOUND**

**DIVERTED WASTE**



**MANUFACTURED**



# BENEFITS OF LOOSE PARTS

Problem solving and theoretical reasoning

Ability to think creatively

Excitement and adventure through play

Social skills and team work, including communication and negotiation skills

Physical activity & movement

Promotes a wide range of play

Improved behaviour in the classroom

Achievement of early years and school curriculum objectives

Endless opportunities for imaginative play and creation

Source: <https://www.cpha.ca/loose-parts-policy>

# LOOSE PARTS: LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Loose Parts Play in the Outdoors Loose Parts applies to the play yard, just as much as it does in the classroom.



# A SPECTRUM OF USE: SCHOOL YARD





Play is precious. Play builds brain pathways for thinking, creativity, flexibility, empathy and many lifelong skills.

- Heather Shumaker

