

I am sure when you have been into our lovely nurseries you have questioned some of the odd resources available to the children? Have you noticed that we have things such as cotton reels, curtain rings, beads, buttons, tins, pot, springs, washers and much more. These are known as loose parts and are a key part of the Kindred vision.

1

'all things that satisfy one's curiosity and give us pleasure that results from discovery and intervention'

Architect Simon Nicholson

Loose parts are not toy's in the traditional sense of the word but we love the open ended play and learning experiences that these can offer our children such as:-

2

buttons can be money in the shop



4

When children interact with loose parts, they enter a world of "what if" that promotes the type of thinking that leads to problem solving and enhancing their ability to think imaginatively and see solutions. All these skills are needed for lifelong learning and adulthood. Stop worrying when your child prefers the cardboard box and bubble wrap to the toy inside or perhaps even stop buying the toy inside?

- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Imagination
- Cognitive skills
- Decision makers
- Finding solutions

3

Our children will tinker for hours with all sorts of objects and have the freedom to transport them to different areas and use them both indoors and outdoors. Just imagine the buttons can be money in the shop, sweets in the jar, used for posting, counting, matching, sorting, sequencing. The possibilities of just this one item are endless so imagine the possibilities when we have lots of loose parts around for our children to explore, investigate and use in play?

5

The possibilities are endless



This is not a stick...

It's a wand
It's a guitar
It's a shovel
It's a horse
It's a baton
It's a telescope
It's a sword
It's a microphone
It's a ski pole
It's a spoon
It's a fishing pole
It's a treasure finder
It's a paddle.

and anything else a child can imagine!

Here's how you can try this at home

So, how do you start to offer loose parts play at home? Not only will this provide invaluable learning opportunities for your children it will save you a fortune and never go out of trend with the new latest craze or blockbuster movie. Once you start to understand this concept and see the importance to your child's learning and development everything will become a loose part, things to think about then when building up your loose parts

Things to think about when building up loose parts:

1.



Materials must be open ended

Have no pre-determined rules



2.

3.



Collections that can be moved, merged, collected and shared

Have storage to enable children to find, source and clear away



4.

5.



Be risk assessed for your own child

Here are some great ideas of loose parts:-



cotton reels, curtain rings, beads, buttons, tins, pots, springs, washers, marbles, bangles, pegs, stones, seashells, feathers, pinecones, leaves, sticks, conkers, acorns, scarves, ribbons, and shoe laces.

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