

Loose Parts Play

Information for Families



Torryburn Nursery

Growing and Learning Together!

KINDNESS FUN PLAY



What are Loose Parts?

- 'Loose parts' is used to describe a wide range of materials which children can use to create, make or represent anything they choose. For example, a bus, a den, a picture.
- There are no rules for using loose parts, allowing children to develop their imagination, curiosity and decision making skills.
- Loose parts can be used freely to explore textures and, therefore, provide fantastic opportunities for sensory play.
- Loose parts have a range of uses including building, making, feeling and problem solving.



What are the Benefits of Loose Parts Play?

- Children of all ages can engage with loose parts and interact accordingly with their age and stage of development.
- Provides opportunities to learn about manmade and natural materials.
- Children can explore colours, patterns, shape, designs and textures.

- Provides opportunities to develop early numeracy skills such as counting, sorting, matching and grouping etc.
- Develops children's motor skills and hand-eye coordination.



*Note - Loose parts are a fantastic tool to use both at home and in nursery/school, however you should take care to ensure that the loose parts are safe for your child to explore, e.g. not a choking hazard, not sharp etc.



What can I use as Loose Parts?

Almost anything can be used as loose parts, as long as they are clean and safe. At Torryburn Nursery, we value the importance of loose parts play, encouraging it both indoors and outdoors with a range of materials. Here are some examples:

- Pinecones
- Twigs
- Buckets
- Sponges
- Bottle Tops
- Wooden Blocks
- Wooden Planks
- Cotton Wool
- Leaves
- Cooking Utensils
- Cardboard
- Tins
- Corks
- Curtain Rings
- Tarpaulin
- Netting
- Stones
- Pots and Pans
- Pegs
- Beads
- Paint Brushes
- Milk Crates
- Tyres
- Ribbon



This is just a small group of ideas, the list is endless! We are always extremely grateful for donations of loose parts as we continue to aim to expand our collection.



If you would like to find out more about Loose Parts Play, please speak to a member of the Nursery Team.

