

Kilmacolm Nursery Class – Home Learning Ideas

Loose Parts Play

What are Loose Parts?

- Loose parts are materials that when given to children, they can become anything they wish from creating and making a robot to constructing their own den.
- Loose parts can be used freely to create, explore textures and develop curiosity and imagination.
- These materials have no directions and no instructions. Children can make their own decisions about how to use the loose parts.
- Loose parts can provide great sensory play experiences.

More information - <https://www.playscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/Play-Scotland-Loose-Parts-Leaflet.pdf>

True Story!

Fern Cotton was on the radio recently about the excitement in her house after a delivery of garden furniture. Her children attacked the packaging and used it to make a train. Quite often we see children opening presents and the instantly start playing with the box and packing rather than the contents. **This is what we mean by loose parts**, bits and pieces, scraps and empty cartons, pots and pans, pegs and boxes, twigs, pebbles, old sheets, leaves and lots more. They all help stimulate curiosity and enhance children's imagination.



Stuck in and looking for ideas?

Spaghetti Snakes

Cook spaghetti and once cool, add into a basin with a little water (*to save from sticking*) for your child to play with. You can even add in food colouring and shaving foam for extra fun.

Match the Pegs

You will need string and coloured clothes pegs. Peg the coloured pegs to the string. The object of the game is for the child to find an object in the house, the same colour as each peg.

Pebble Painting

When out on a walk collect lots of flat stones/pebbles. These can be used to paint on. You could make dominos or paint faces and make up stories.

Lots more ideas here - <https://www.playscotland.org/parents-families/im-bored/>

Developing Literacy and Numeracy

Write a Letter

Did you know? Colouring, cutting, gluing and sticking are a great way for children to develop the muscles required for handwriting. Get out some stationary or plain paper and envelopes and let your children decorate the paper. Help them 'write' a letter to a relative or even themselves. If they can write letters, that's good, otherwise have them make a card with illustrations. Teach them how to address the letter and explain how the postage and stamps work. Watch their face when they receive their letter back through their own door!

Lots more ideas here - <https://pathways.org/no-time-tv-activities-kids-say-im-bored/>

Sorting and Matching

Provide lots of empty containers and random small toys from around the house such as zoo/farm animals, little people, cars, trains etc. put them all in a big pile then encourage the children to set their sorting and matching criteria. Such as 'let's put all the things together that have blue in them' or 'let's find all the things that are bigger than this car'. If children are unsure about how to do this, lead by example and demonstrate this to them.

Lots more ideas here - <https://nrich.maths.org/13371>