

A Word About Risk

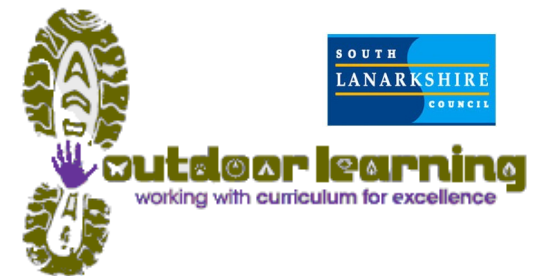
educationally involved in the process from the outset. This will help learners to make good decisions about risks as they develop.

South Lanarkshire Council fully endorses the use of Risk Benefit Assessments with learners where the risks associated with activities are considered alongside the benefits. This ensures that any precautions are practicable, reasonable and appropriately reflect the level of risk. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) supports this guidance as a sensible approach to risk management.



Weather and Clothing

Scotland's weather is notoriously changeable and this can be used to





Why learn outdoors?

The advantages of taking learning outside are extensive and are often not always immediately obvious:

- the opportunity to make mess, to explore and discover, and to make noise
- the fact that mentally and emotionally the outdoors is a very different place from the classroom.

Regular access to a safe and stimulating outdoor space provides an opportunity to deliver all aspects of the **formal, informal and hidden curriculum** in a way that meets the needs of children and young

however small or featureless, can contribute with a little development. We hope to start our outdoor learning journey in St. Elizabeth's by introducing 'Loose Parts'.

Theory of loose parts

The theory of loose parts has begun to influence **child-play experts** and **playscape designers** in a big way.

It was first proposed back in the 1970's by architect Simon Nicholson, who believed that it is the loose parts in our environment that **empower our creativity**.

What are Loose Parts?

Loose parts are materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways.

They are materials with no specific set of directions that can be used alone or combined with other materials.

Loose parts can be natural or synthetic. In a school outdoor environment we can provide various loose parts for use in play:

- stumps,
- stones,
- twigs,
- wood,
- pallets,
- balls,
- buckets,
- crates,
- boxes,
- logs,



- rope and
- tyres.

Why Loose Parts?

There are many reasons why play spaces should include a multitude of loose parts, including:

- Loose parts can be used any way children choose;
- Loose parts can be adapted and manipulated in many ways;
- Loose parts encourage creativity and imagination;
- Loose parts develop more skill and competence than most modern plastic toys;
- Loose parts can be used in many different ways;
- Loose parts can be used in combination with other materials to support imagination;
- Loose parts encourage open-ended learning;
- Children often choose loose parts over fancy toys.

