

Loose Parts (Natural and Not)



▲ Natural loose parts can become almost anything a child imagines, here a worm home.

Loose parts (natural and not natural) include almost any found object or play material that increases play and learning. To start, gather some of nature's loose parts already in your yard.

Children's creativity is driven by anything that can be manipulated, changed, or moved around. Rather than purchasing toys for your children to play with outdoors, consider recycling and reusing everyday objects and taking stock of what nature provides for free!

MATERIALS

- Twigs and bark
- Pinecones
- Stones
- Leaves
- Seeds and flowers
- Bamboo poles
- Tree cookies
- Sawn logs
- Reused everyday objects

1. **Gather and prepare loose parts; ask your kids to help.**
2. **Check over thoroughly for splinters, sharp edges, or potentially unsafe conditions.**
3. **Let them play!**