



Loose Parts Play

A new approach at Newchurch Pre-School



The Theory of Loose Parts;

The theory of loose parts was introduced by architect Simson Nicolson in the 1970s. He believed that loose parts in our environment would empower "the creativity- the playing around with the components and variables of the world in order to make experiments and discover new things and form new concepts."

This theory has influenced play providers, architects and play space designers in a very positive way.

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.
- Loose part materials have no directions and no instructions. Children can make their own decision about how to use loose parts.
- Loose parts can provide great sensory experiences.

How can loose parts be used in play?

There are many ways in which loose parts in play can be used by children:

- Making
- Building
- Touching and feeling
- Adapting and changing use.

Quote;

A loose parts toy, is open-ended; children may use it in many ways and combine with other loose parts through imagination and creativity. Nature, which excites all the senses, remains the richest source of loose parts.

Richard Louv

Quote;

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we know and understand, whilst imagination embraces the entire world, and all there will be to know and understand.

Albert Einstein

Research & Studies;

- Research and studies have shown that loose parts play can contribute to the development of children's creativity, exploration, imagination, learning and most importantly fun.
- Studies have also shown that loose parts create richer environments for children's play. This is why having access to loose parts play is vital

How Can Loose Parts Play help?

- Loose parts play supports cognitive development. Loose parts materials can be a catalyst that facilitates curiosity, imagination and creativity.
- Creativity and problem solving are among the basic skills that everyone needs; at school, in the home and in later life. To be able to think outside the box and come up with innovative ways, we need to be able to use our imagination and see things in a different way.
- Providing opportunities to develop children's imaginations is essential for their continued learning and development.
- Loose parts play can also help with concentration as children focus on creating and making.