

# Loose Parts

## What is Loose Parts Play?

Loose parts play is simply about giving children a collection of various objects or materials that they can freely manipulate and explore in their own way. Providing open-ended materials encourages creativity and the development of language, social, emotional, and motor skills.



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## Why Loose Parts?

- Loose parts play sparks creativity and problem solving as children explore and create with different materials.
- It helps develop fine motor skills through hands-on manipulation of objects.
- Through collaboration and sharing, it fosters social skills.
- It supports cognitive development by exploring concepts like cause and effect, spatial awareness, and numeracy.

## How Can You Encourage Loose Parts Play?

Have them available and accessible! When children can freely access the loose parts, they are more likely to use them and incorporate them into all kinds of learning experiences.

## Other Loose Parts to Add:

- pompoms
- shells
- rocks
- blocks
- large buttons
- pinecones
- leaves
- clothes pins
- dried beans or pasta
- bottle caps
- pipe cleaners
- cotton balls, round cotton pads
- cotton swabs (Q-Tips)

## Loose Parts Safety

Before introducing loose parts:

- **Supervision:** Always supervise young children during loose parts play to prevent accidents.
- **Age-appropriate materials:** Choose objects that match their ages and developmental stages.
- **Check Loose Parts:** Regularly check loose parts for any wear and tear, replace as needed.
- **Clean Materials:** Make sure the materials are clean and free from any harmful substances.
- **Choking:** If any of the children are mouthing items, ensure that the items are not a choking hazard.

# LOOSE PARTS FACES EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

## Loose Parts Emotions

In your package you were provided with:

- Loose parts emotion cards
- Laminated blank faces
- Bag of loose parts

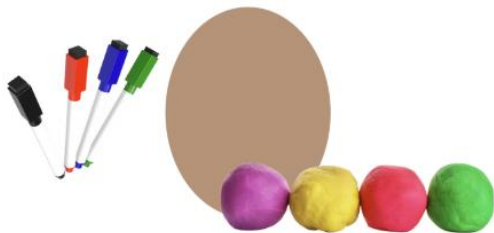


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### Activity Idea:

Begin by discussing different emotions with the children. You can introduce the emotion cards that represent each feeling. *You could have the children look in a mirror and make the face that matches each emotion.* After introducing, and talking about each feeling, give each child a blank face mat. Encourage the children to make different faces with a variety of loose parts using the emotion cards as inspiration.

## Laminated Face Mats



### Additional Activities:

- Children can use playdough or dry erase markers to create faces on the mats.
- Using plastic and dry erase markers or paint, children can trace people's faces as they hold the plastic near their face.



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