# Playing With Loose Parts!

**What are loose parts and why use them?** Loose parts are engaging items made from natural and synthetic materials. Children can interact with these items to explore creative freedom and exploration. Through active facilitation and encouragement of play, these loose parts can create open-ended play and promote meaningful experiences!

## Small Loose Parts ⚠

- Beans
- Buttons
- Canning Lids
- Cards
- Coins
- Corks
- Corn
- Cube Blocks
- Door Knobs
- Golf Balls
- Handles
- Ice Cubes
- Jewelry Boxes
- Keys
- Marbles
- Marker Lids
- Popsicle Sticks
- Pom-Poms
- Rice
- Strings
- Tiles

## Larger Loose Parts

- Barrels
- Bike Wheels
- Canoes
- Crates
- Drawers
- Hard Shell Suitcases
- Hollow Blocks
- Hula Hoops
- Ladders
- Metal Trash Cans
- Pallets
- Planks of lumber
- PVC Pipes
- Reels
- Tires

## Natural Loose Parts

- Bamboo
- Bark
- Blocks
- Bricks
- Cinnamon Sticks
- Corn
- Dirt/Sand/Water
- Feathers
- Flowers
- Hay Bales
- Hemp Rope
- Large Branches
- Leaves
- Logs
- Mulch
- Seed Pods
- Sticks

## Synthetic Loose Parts

- Balls
- Belts
- Buckets
- Cardboard
- Cups
- Curtain Hooks
- CDs
- Fabric
- Game Pieces
- Hair Rollers
- Hangers
- Light Shades
- Metal Bowls
- Nuts and Bolts
- Packing Peanuts
- Picture Frames
- Rulers
- Sensory Bottles
- Spoons
- Shower Puffs
- Tiles

Adapted from: www.aplaceforchildhood.com

⚠ Choking Hazard: Small parts are not suitable for children under 3 years old.