

# curious minds

Ages 2  
and up



## Loose parts - inspiring creativity

Have you ever noticed that if you leave recyclable or re-usable materials lying around children will almost certainly play with them? The options for play and discovery are endless with the use of open-ended resources that we like to call 'loose parts'.

### Learning benefit/skill development

- Developing and using children's imagination.
- Gross and fine motor development of using items and constructing with these.
- Develops children's problem solving and spatial awareness.
- Older children will be able to vocalise their play and idea of use for these materials, whereas younger children will use these materials solely for investigation and building purposes.

### What you'll need

A variety of open ended resources such as

- Wood offcuts
- Milk crates
- Stones
- Cardboard boxes such as cereal box, biscuit box and parcel boxes
- Shells

- Ribbon
- Washed plastic food containers such as yogurt tubs and butter tubs
- Plastic garden pots

### Instructions

- Provide a range of open ended resources within a play space that is large enough for children to explore the use of these materials in a way they wish to use them.
- Don't try to direct the child, just let them explore and use their imagination.
- Allowing children to use materials with their own ideas in mind encourages and inspires their imagination and creativity.

### Tips/advice

- Having children involved in the process of sourcing the re-usable or recyclable items can also encourage their play with these items.