

What are Loose Parts?

Loose parts are items and materials that children can, move, adapt, control, change and manipulate within their play. They provide a high level of creativity and choice, as there are endless possibilities for how they can be used.

The theory of Loose Parts was developed in 1971 by Simon Nicholson who said that in any environment, the degree of creativity and inventiveness was directly proportional to the number of variables in it.

Do you remember building cubbies with branches and anything else you could get your hands on as a child? Loose parts in a play space enhance the fixed play items already available and are one of the most valuable resources you can have.

Loose parts can be anything from branches, sticks, small rocks, pine cones, shells, tyres, ropes, pvc pipe, logs, craters, seed pods, stumps – the possibilities are endless. Most loose parts don't cost anything to obtain and therefore don't hold value to other people so can be left out in the playspace overnight.



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Need more help? Kidsafe SA provides a playground inspection service. Contact us for a quote to organise an inspector to visit your playspace and provide specific advice.