

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our first Information Leaflet about **LOOSE PARTS PLAY**.

We hope that this will give you a basic overview of the developments we are trying to make to outdoor play for Y1-Y6. We will develop our leaflet as we develop our project.

As part of our commitment to improving playtime for the children at Hesleden, we are introducing the use of 'LOOSE PARTS' into our playground and school field. Loose parts are materials that *'can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, taken apart and put back together in multiple ways'*. Loose parts can be natural or synthetic. These items could range from pots and pans to tyres, tubs, utensils, tubes, old musical equipment, rugs, material, wood, logs, crates etc... Basically, anything that a child can play with.

***Research shows that children like to play with loose parts because they can use their imagination and have greater control in their play. Loose parts play provides ways for your child to grow and learn physically, emotionally, socially and cognitively.***

*We are in the very early stages of developing our loose parts play provision and we would love your help.*

*The links and images below are from established projects in schools... our aim is to develop a similar provision, unique to Hesleden Primary!*

- <https://www.playscotland.org/parents-families/loose-parts-play/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QP3idysTZs>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEQBGTmFH7Q>



# LOOSE PARTS PLAY

# INFORMATION LEAFLET

## Some Benefits of LOOSE PARTS PLAY

- Provides opportunities for children to explore their own creativity and innovation
- Encourages children to design, plan, and build
- Children can use materials in open-ended ways without a prescribed plan
- Promotes problem-solving and critical thinking
- Improves pupil relationships and self-confidence
- Provides increased inclusion for all pupils
- Encourages children to be critical and reflective thinkers
- Encourages independent and collaborative learning
- Allows children to develop their skills in Communication, Numeracy and Mathematics, Science and negotiation
- Encourages children to persevere, take and manage risks
- Develops spatial reasoning and visualisation

*We are talking to the children about their views on playtime... what they'd like to see and do, what more resources they'd like etc.  
Article 31 - The right to play, have fun and relax*

*We are beginning to build up a loose parts area in school that stocks a variety of items. It would be wonderful if you, your family or friends could donate any unwanted items from the list below:*

### LOOSE PARTS suggestions:

Blankets, cushions and sheets  
Buckets  
Binoculars  
Cardboard boxes  
Camping mats  
Crates  
Hammocks  
Netting  
Kitchen items such as old pots and pans, spoons, baking tins, jugs, bowls, rolling pins, whisks  
Bicycle wheels  
CDs  
Clothing, hats and scarves and fancy dress costumes  
Helmets and goggles  
Computer keyboards  
Musical equipment  
Tennis/badminton rackets  
Tents  
Piping and guttering  
Plastic garden pots  
Ribbon  
Rucksacks and suitcases  
Rugs  
Sledges  
Tarpaulin  
Telephones  
Traffic cones  
Watering cans  
Wind breakers  
Wire Reels  
Wood - tree stumps, decking, planks, sticks and poles.



*This list is not 'it' and as the project progresses, we hope to be able to ask for different resources at different points in the year, so that children can adapt and vary their play.*

We will set up collection boxes in school for donations.

### Other developments...

We are also planning to develop 'zones of play' within our outdoor space. These zones will include:

- Area for safe-play with balls
- Sand pit / digging area
- Mud kitchen

We know our older children love to play in the Early Years garden and we are sure they will enjoy these new initiatives.



*We've told children to wear wellies on the field from September to Easter, after this we'll decide depending on the weather.*

We've already ordered special welly stores to make changing easier!

