





Subject Area	Skills Developed by Loose Parts Play	Example
<p style="text-align: center;">Math</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial Awareness • Comparing and Contrasting • Patterning • Geometry • Measuring • Counting 	<p>Provide an assortment of loose parts, like blocks, bottle caps, and small gems. Children can sort them, count them, compare them, line them up and measure them, etc. The possibilities are endless!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Science</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experimenting • Investigating • Classifying • Problem Solving 	<p>Watch Video: Loose Parts and STEAM in the Early Childhood Classroom</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Dramatic Play</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imagination • Complex Story Creation 	<p>Put tree cookies (small round slices of thin tree trunks) into dramatic play and see what the children turn them into. They might be food one day or money to buy item the next. Follow the children's interests and add additional props over the course of the week to expand on their ideas.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Language and Literacy</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocabulary • Conversations • Storytelling 	<p>Put out loose parts and encourage children to retell and explore familiar stories. They can dive deeper into the plot, describe complex characters, or even change the ending. For examples of children engaged in story telling Watch Video: Storytelling with Loose Parts</p>

Art



- Creativity
- Fine Motor Skills
- Explore shapes, spaces, patterns, etc.

Put out an empty picture frame and bottle caps of various sizes. Encourage children to create pictures or designs inside their frame.

Sensory



- Awareness of the world around them
- Five Senses
- Fine and Gross Motor Skills
- Sense of Self

Let children explore loose parts that heighten senses. For example, let them play with herbs, pinecones, and dried flowers. As they play they can explore the smells, textures, and sounds each item makes. Include variety in color and texture when introducing items.

Music and Movement



- Hand-Eye coordination
- Focus
- Gross Motor Skills
- Rhythm

Introduce a variety of loose parts for children to drum on, such as wood, bamboo, plastic jugs, or even metal pots.