

The use of 'loose parts' to extend Schemas.

When planning activities to support schemas and extend learning we encourage the use of 'loose parts', these are open ended objects that can be used for multiple purpose i.e an empty cable reel can be a table, a stage, a car, a boat and much more. Loose parts do not dictate how they must be used, they can be used however the children choose. This promotes the development of new skills and promotes imaginative play.

Playing with loose parts promotes problem solving skills and team work while improving coordination and balance, children can learn from each other, the opportunities are endless! Please see the chart below for the types of loose parts that can be used to support schemas in the home and in our setting. If you do happen to have any items listed that you no longer need, our pre-school would be very grateful to you for donating them and the children will have hours of endless fun and learning. 😊

<i>Loose Parts that can support and extend schemas</i>							
If your child loves:	(S)He may be exploring		Loose Parts	Large play	Recyclable/ Repurposed	Additional tools/ bases	Commercial Toys/ Gifts
Train sets, buckles, Lego, harnesses, fridge magnets, stickers, marker caps, shoes	Connecting		lolly sticks, match sticks, golf tees, paper clips, binder rings, carabiners, felt pieces, tissue paper pieces, elastics, fabric, paper, burlap, balsa wood, labels, pipe cleaners, belts, Velcro hair rollers, corks, pins, box rivets, screws, nails, binder clips	Log rounds or stumps for stacking, tires, boards, wooden spools, ropes, webbing, lumber, pallets, logs	containers with lids, bread clips, pvc pipes, nuts and bolts, electrical wires, twist ties, buckles and snaps from discarded items, broccoli elastics	Hammer, Tape, glue, twine, rope, yarn, bungee cords, hooks, chains, Velcro, cable ties, latches and fasteners, tongs, webbing, flannel, stapler, safety pins, contact paper, magnetic surface, corkboard	Lego, Knex, gear sets, slot-a-shape builders, magnet builders, unifix cubes, , Straws and connectors, stickle blocks, Magneatos, puzzles, Snap Circuits, Brik-a-blok, Mecanno Jr., train sets, Barrel of Monkeys
Airplanes, car crashes, balls, sharks, birds, Superman, throwing toys, throwing food, jumping off things, knocking things down, expressive art, basketball, bubbles, explosions	Trajectory		Paper, pompoms, rubber bands, balloons, corks, beanbags, spoons, rulers, ping pong balls, string, ribbons, cotton balls, felt balls, pieces of foam, sponges, pillows, boards and cylinders (for catapults), tea pot, watering can	Planks, cable spool, skate ramp, platforms, ladder, chairs, yoga ball, slide, sled, rain gutters, a pair of trees and physio band for giant slingshot, pliable birches (for swinging), pool noodles	Pipes, scarves, plastic bottles (for rockets), paper towel tubes, broccoli elastics, springs, plastic spoons, buckets for ball toss, boxes for crash zone, inner tubes, film canisters, boxes and cartons for knocking down	Hammers, saws, mortar and pestle, targets, hoops, mini zip wires, fans, launch pad, balcony, Antacids and vinegar for rockets.	Catapult kits, marble run, Hot Wheels tracks, construction sets with ramps, rocket building kits, boomerangs, propeller toys, Frisbees, kites, stomp rockets.

<p>Dens, hide and seek, putting toys to bed, burying items in sand, wrapping presents, eggs and nests, hats, being inside cupboards, painting entire canvas, Lego enclosures</p>	<p>Enclosing/ Enveloping</p>		<p>Scarves, fabric, lace, towels, boxes, spools, paper towels, tissue paper, tubes, aluminum foil, foam pieces, folding steamer basket, plastic Easter eggs, locks and keys, hinges, hair rollers, sponges, nesting baskets, tissue paper, ribbons, yarn, plaster cloth, cheese cloth, toilet paper, paper mache, Paperclay</p>	<p>Cardboard boxes, stacks of tires, tents, long tree limbs (for dens), blankets, tarps, tables, chairs, couch cushions, pallets, cylindrical concrete forms, haystacks, ball pit</p>	<p>Fabric remnants, old hats and shawls, belts, watches, plastic containers, cups, electrical wire, cardboard tubes, egg cartons, envelope wrapping paper, newsprint, magazines, bubble wrap</p>	<p>Clothes pins, safety pins, rubber bands, string, tape, Velcro tape, twist ties, magnifying glass, Silly Putty</p>	<p>Russian nesting dolls, stacking cups, Lego, sleeping bag, skipping rope, mosaic kit, piggy bank, piñata, doll clothes, latches board, hollow blocks, mailbox, excavation kit,</p>
<p>Elevators, balls, towers, dropping objects on purpose, scribbling up and down, building tall towers</p>	<p>Dynamic Vertical</p>		<p>Scarves, beanbags, pompoms, cushions, string, rope, spools, beads, foam balls, ping-pong balls, corks, wire, bean bags, watering can, tea pot, slinky, confetti, blocks for stacking, spools, paper clips, dice, dominoes, light switches, chains, springs, barrel bolts</p>	<p>Stacks of tires, platforms, chairs, ladders, walls, tree trunks, fences, couch cushions, cylindrical concrete forms, trampoline, dumbwaiter, fireman pole, deep hole</p>	<p>PVC pipes, wrapping paper tubes, Pringles chip containers, K-cups, yogurt cups, cans, zippers, tissue boxes, Yop bottles, solo cups, empty boxes, straws, coiled telephone cords</p>	<p>Plumb line, retractable tape measure, pulleys and ropes with bucket, small hand winch, mashers, mortar and pestle, funnel, turkey baster, hour glass, thermometer</p>	<p>peg stackers, stacking toys, hammer and peg set, bead maze, toy elevator, parachute men, paddle ball, rocket kits, skipping rope, ball and jacks, Connect Four, trampoline, Ogodisk, Micro Shotz, stomp rockets, Jacob's ladder</p>

If your child loves:	(S)He may be exploring		Loose Parts	Large play	Recyclable/ Repurposed	Additional tools/ bases	Commercial Toys/ Gifts
<p>Putting trucks upside down, turning knobs on stereo/ appliances, planets, racetracks, CD's, launching toys that roll, spinning in circles, washing machines</p>	<p>Rotation</p>		<p>plates, pot lids, wood rings, spools, washers, metal rings, rope, string, sticks, toilet plungers, paper towel holders, cylindrical blocks, short length of pipe, nuts and bolts, screws, martini umbrellas, metal bearings, mixing spoons, whisks, hair rollers, loops of tubing or pipes, bobbins, paint roller, hinges</p>	<p>Cylindrical concrete form, plastic culvert pipes, swings, cable spools, hay bales, freestanding poles and trunks for circling, hula hoop, pop-up hamper or tunnel, merry-goround, barrel</p>	<p>Cylindrical containers, paper tubes, old microwave trays/ tracks, bottles, castors, motors, knobs off old appliances, roller blade wheels & bolts, cups, spinners from board games, turn table, round cardboard from frozen pizza, paper plates</p>	<p>large round bowls, steel drum, fan, compasses, winch, pottery wheels, lazy susan, rotating organizer, salad spinner, dowels and sticks, hamster wheel, clothes for toy washing machine, drill, screwdriver, auger, mixer, blender</p>	<p>Train circuit, gear toys, bead maze, peg stackers, spiral ball run, abacus, Magneatos, Snap Circuits, star builders, tops, toy cement mixer, propeller flyers, skipping rope, water wheel, spirograph, View master, magnets, Spin art.</p>

<p>Making holes in things, poking with sticks, putting fingers in holes, arrows and bullets, swords, ice fishing, sewing, earrings, destroying safety gates, putting limbs through bars of railings</p>	<p>Going through a barrier</p>		<p>Yarn and plastic needles, birthday candles, dowels, craft sticks, fabric, burlap, mesh, lace, pipe cleaners, oasis, cork, pipe cleaners, golf tees, toothpicks, match sticks, beads, buttons, chopsticks, keys and locks, bolts and boards with holes, screws, balsa wood, pins, raw spaghetti, sieve, colander, plastic canvas, screening, perforated steel containers, napkin rings, latches, hooks, water beads, artificial foliage and flowers, cubicle clips, martini umbrellas, floral foam, fence</p>	<p>Lattice, fencing, soil, sand, shovels, picks, hoes, augers, knotty pine boards, milk crates, post hole diggers, peg boards, loosely knit blankets, wine rack, windows, ladders, tunnel, parachute, finish lines, swinging doors, leaf strainer for gutters</p>	<p>Pieces of Styrofoam packaging, foam insulation, cardboard boxes, bits of grid wire, chicken wire, tomato cages, birdcages, carpet pieces, paper tubes, straws, bits of discarded shirts with buttons and buttonholes, bubble wrap, wire, twist tiles, rope, elastics, pegboard</p>	<p>Hammer, drill, screwdriver, rubber mallet, tent pegs, tweezers, pliers, hole punches, shape punches, brads, spades, hand drills, weeding tools, dibbers, skewers, nut crackers, stapler, cookie cutter, fork, garlic press, lemon juicer</p>	<p>Peg stackers, hammer and peg set, weaving loom, Lite-Brite, Mr. Potato Head, lacing toys, Honey Bee Tree game, Kerplunk, rug hooking kit, stretchy mouse and cheese toy</p>
<p>Having hands full of objects, full pockets, filling and dumping, dump trucks, bags, shopping carts, wheelbarrows</p>	<p>Transporting</p>		<p>Glass gems, beads, pompoms, marbles, tiles, clothes pins, nuts and bolts, washers, cotton balls, ball bearings, magnets, pails, bags, baskets, tins, fanny pack, containers, backpack, bindle stick, plastic counters, tiddlywinks, popsicle sticks, sponges, erasers, buttons, spools, dice, chains, felt balls, cotton swabs, Styrofoam shapes, confetti, foam craft shapes, figurines, caps</p>	<p>Wheelbarrow, yard cart, barrel, shopping cart, large backpack, sack, wagon, sled, stroller, laundry basket, trolleys, dollies, carts, sled, stroller, ride-on toys, cardboard box</p>	<p>Plastic containers, buckets, cardboard boxes, Easter baskets, reusable grocery bags, milk jugs, milk crates, used purses, cloth sacks, corks, rubber bands, bread ties, caps, corks,</p>	<p>Scoops, tongs, funnel, shovel, spade, scoops, tool belt, clips, pulleys, clothesline, carabiners, hooks, skateboards, felt pads for furniture</p>	<p>Toy cargo vehicles, diggers, dump trucks, Trunki, lunch boxes, back pack, mini shopping cart, mini wheelbarrow, wagon, ride-on toy with storage, bike basket, mini figures, toy garage with elevator, Hungry Hippos, toy boats</p>

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<p>Putting toys in a row, arranging food on a plate, parking toy cars, sorting, sequencing by size, arranging furniture, straightening rows of shoes, stacking books</p>	<p>Ordering/ Positioning</p>		<p>Dominoes, birthday candles, magnets, buttons, popsicle sticks, pompoms, spools, beads, clothes pins, match sticks, checkers, poker chips, dice, chains, books, playing cards, washers, napkin rings, hex nuts, glass gems, tiddlywinks, paint stirrers, dowels, tiles cubes, graph paper, shoes, moulding corners, tile spacers</p>	<p>Large hollow blocks, crates, cable spools, palettes, bricks, cardboard boxes, furniture, ladders, barrels, branches, tires, logs, cords of wood, stepping stones, Twister</p>	<p>Bread bag clips, cups, nesting cups, leftover kitchen/bath tiles, taped up cereal boxes (etc), empty bottles, sensory bottles, cardboard tubes, Kcups, solo cups, tissue boxes, paint swatches</p>	<p>Mirrors, empty frames, tray with ledge, flat bottomed cake pans, shallow boxes, light box, yard stick, T-square, level, ruler</p>	<p>Snap Circuits, Froebel gift sets, tangrams, Lego, Jenga, geometric shape builders, inset puzzles, wooden peg board toys, mosaic kits, bowling set, nesting dolls, Citiblocs, Katamino blocks, Kapla, KEVA, Rush Hour game, dinky cars, parking garage</p>
<p>Makeovers, body paint, fashion dolls, mermaids, robots, shape shifters, werewolves, costumes, mixing media, room design, drawing on oneself</p>	<p>Transformation</p>		<p>scarves, clothes pins, hair rollers, string, yarn, ribbons, wire, mardi gras beads, pipes, chicken wire, beads, gems, pins, sequins, buttons, picture frames, paint chip cards, bingo chips, prisms, bottles of layered liquids, water beads, shaving cream, body paint, hair rollers, elastics, plaster cloth, ice molds, soap suds,, googly eyes</p>	<p>Wood pallets, mud kitchen, landscaping tools, rake, shovel loose bricks, large cardboard boxes, paint rollers</p>	<p>Styrofoam heads, fabric remnants, boxes, paper tubes, binder clips, wrapping paper, old clothes, jewelry, egg cartons, wax from Babybel cheese, empty Kcups, bread tabs, elastics, rubber bands, twist ties, fashion dolls or plastic toys with faces/paint removed.</p>	<p>Mirrors, Plexiglas, spatulas, rakes, mixing spoons, squeeze bottles, spray bottles, mashers, mortar and pestle, rolling pin, cake pans, Light table, plastic bin, water basin, flashlight, magnifying glass</p>	<p>Mr. Potato Head, Dolls with clothes, Building sets, Lite Brite, Magnatiles, Light & Color kits, Marble run, Thermal reactive toys, Plasticine, Creature builders, Rock Tumbler, Color & Cuddle washable toys</p>
<p>Vehicles, strollers, lawn mowers, parades, sports, pushing objects and furniture around, scribbling left and right, making blocks into roads, balancing on curbs, waving flags, shakers</p>	<p>Dynamic Horizontal</p>		<p>Ping pong balls, elastics, marbles, string, yarn, dowels, popsicle sticks, dominoes, blocks of uniform size for road building, playing cards, ribbons, chains, mardi gras beads, pipes, marker caps, paint chip cards, flags, Frisbee, rubber ball,</p>	<p>Streams, ditches, paths, trenches, plastic rain gutters, flat boards, 4x4's, cylindrical concrete forms, plastic culverts, tires, wagon, sled</p>	<p>Bottles (for bowling), wrapping paper tubes, mailer tubes, floor board remnants, oral syringes with water, zippers, pipes, wheels, cylindrical containers, old computer diskettes (for roads)</p>	<p>Mirrors, Plexiglas, smooth flooring or pavement, squirt bottles, square or rectangular tiles, rolling pin, level, retractable tape measure, cookie sheet, rolls of tape, clothesline, felt pads for furniture, Glide Guards</p>	<p>Bowling set, Magnadoodle, Marble Run, abacus, train set, toy lawn mower, push toys, ride-on toys, ramp racer, table hockey, boomerang, Hot Wheels tracks, dinky cars, Hungry Hippos</p>
<p>Climbing everything, playing peek-a-boo games, sitting upside down, hanging from bars, looking through holes and transparent objects, standing on toys, crawling under tables</p>	<p>Orientation/ Perspective</p>		<p>Mirror tiles, cardboard tubes, foam blocks, boards, stools and chairs, ropes, washers, prisms, marbles, tiddlywinks, stained glass, small figurines, scale models, empty picture frames</p>	<p>large concrete form, ladders, stools, rope hammock, tree house, cave, barrel, Twister game</p>	<p>telephone books for stacking/ climbing, overturned buckets, pvc pipes, CD's, sunglasses, transparent bottles, old maps, coffee cans, dentist mirrors, sunglasses, coloured lenses</p>	<p>Mats for laying on, puppet theatre, magnifying glass, compass, loupe, flashlights, shovels, hangers and hooks (for building downwards)</p>	<p>Stilts, microscope, telescope, camera, binoculars, periscope, pop-out tunnel, tent, jungle gym, kaleidoscope, sky projector, 3D puzzles, rocking horse</p>