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children. The more open-ended opportunities you provide for your children the more ways in which they can express themselves freely. Children will have full control of their play and exploration if you provide them with resources that have no specific directions or instructions.

What are loose parts?

Loose parts are materials that can be collected, sorted, moved around, manipulated, adapted, controlled, combined with other materials, piled up, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways.

They are open-ended items that can be used alone or combined with other materials. They allow children to use them with no instructions or directions. They can be natural or manufactured, found, scavenged or bought, different sizes, shapes and materials.

There may be items that you would normally throw away or recycle or items that you would use for other tasks, e.g. nuts and bolts. If you look around your setting and your home you will be sure to find items that could be classed as loose part resources. This is how you can develop your resource bank. This publication will look at different resource and activity ideas.

Loose parts allow children to design their own play environment and if children are involved in creating their own spaces and activities, they will be more engaged and motivated in the play and learning. If children are engaged

and able to think for themselves then high quality learning and development occurs.

