LOOSE PARTS & LITERACY

LETS GET BUSY!

WHAT ARE LOOSE PARTS?

Loose Parts are open-ended, flexible materials that provide the most opportunity for creativity. The materials come with no specific set of directions, and can be used alone or combined with other objects.

"A GOOD TOY IS REALLY ONLY 10% TOY AND 90% CHILD"- JOAN ALMON

BENEFITS

-Open-ended: Can be used in endless ways
-Sensory: Provides opportunities to explore varying textures, weights, patterns, shapes, colors, and what happens when you bang, crush, and rub them together.
-Encourage imagination and creativity
-Developmentally Appropriate: Children will use them in ways that suit their developmental needs and skill levels.
-Address all areas of development; Including problem-solving, decision making, fine/gross motor, independence, language, literacy, art, math, and science.
-Cost effective and easy to source.
GUIDING LEARNING WITH LOOSE PARTS

OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS

Open ended questions help stimulate curiosity, inspire creativity, develop language, encourage comprehension, and build vocabulary.

Science & Math Exploration:
- Tell me about your_________.
- What would happen if you_______?
- What might you try instead?
- What does it look/feel/smell like?
- How did you figure that out?
- What else could this be used for?

Reading Comprehension:
- What was your favorite part of the story?
- What is another way the story could end?

WHAT TO AVOID

- Avoid modeling "creations" to children. Imitate their behaviors first and allow them to lead the experience. For example, if they are stacking items, you should be too.
- Avoid asking "what are you making." The "what" is unimportant--Focus on the "how!"
- Avoid evaluative statements such as: "I like it when.." or "That's pretty"