



CHECKING LOOSE PARTS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER PLAY

Loose parts must be safe enough for children to use. Set up a system to check all items, regardless of how they were sourced. Items will get broken as children play, have a system in place for ongoing assessment. Remember, your organisation is responsible for the management, maintenance, supervision and disposal of loose parts used within your setting.

NEW LOOSE PARTS ARRIVE

Check for potential hazards including:

- Easily broken parts which could create choking hazards or splinters and sharp edges
- Electrical concerns - wires and circuits, plugs, etc.
- Sharp items
- Likelihood of splintering or shattering, especially under pressure or temperature changes
- Flammable materials
- Bacterial infection through dampness, wet storage or stagnant water
- Items that are likely to cause fingers, head or other body parts to become trapped
- Chemical concerns - batteries, leaky components, etc. (Remove from play immediately).

If you find hazards that can be fixed immediately

Take appropriate action such as:

- Sand down sharp edges or splintery wood
- Remove protruding wires, staples or nails
- Check pockets and lining of second-hand clothing and accessories
- Secure or remove parts that can come loose
- Wash and clean resources.

If you find hazards that can be fixed, but not immediately:

Take appropriate action such as:

- Ensure the item is not accessible to children
- Identify a specific place that children and adults can put broken or worn items
- Keep a record book of items for repair and note when the item has been returned to play
- Use a sticker system to mark items requiring repair.

If you find an item that is beyond repair or the hazards can't be fixed:

Take appropriate action such as:

- Remove the item promptly
- Ensure the item is not accessible to children.
- Contact your local authority waste disposal or recycling centre for advice
- Encourage children and adults to put broken or worn items in an identified location.

Make available for play.

Remove from play.



Co-funded by
the European Union



In Scotland, the project was co-ordinated
by East Lothian Play Association
www.elpa.org.uk
Scottish Registered Charity SCO50202