



INTRODUCING LOOSE PARTS PLAY - SAMPLE LETTER

Before you start: Remember, this letter is only a sample. It can be adapted to suit your setting and who you are communicating with. If you need more detailed information, please refer to the Loose Parts Play Manual.

Dear school families,

As part of the ongoing improvements to our school and playground, I want to let you know about an exciting new development.

We will soon be introducing loose parts play at lunchtimes and during class time. We are doing this to make our playground more creative, more inclusive and importantly, more fun for all children.

Loose parts play will be a chance for children to play freely with friends, to investigate, discover, explore and create. We believe play is an important part of the school day. Research shows improving playtimes at school reaps benefits for children and schools including:

- a greater enjoyment of playtimes and also of school itself
- more collaboration and creativity at playtime
- improved problem-solving and conflict resolution skills
- fewer reported incidents and accidents at playtime
- health and well-being benefits, including greater physical activity and improved emotion regulation
- increased attention on returning to the classroom.

Loose parts play encourages children to use their imagination to play with resources such as cardboard boxes, tyres, nets, cable drums, sticks and other loose materials. These items can be used in many different ways to make things like a pirate ship, a den or mix up a potion from mud.



To ensure loose parts play is introduced safely and effectively, we have robust processes in place:

- staff will receive training to support children's play
- staff and children will be part of discussions on rules and procedures for loose parts play in our school
- issues including how to use the resources safely will be discussed
- all classes will receive a taster play session
- a thorough risk benefit assessments will be undertaken
- all items will be checked initially and on a regular basis for safety.

Loose parts play will take place in most weather conditions, please ensure children are dressed for the weather so they can join in. They might need wellies, waterproof jackets, gloves or sunscreen and sun hats depending on the weather.

Our school will need a supply of a wide range of loose parts such as suitcases, pipes, crates, fabric, saucepans, keyboards, old clothes and tubes. Please look out for more information on collections and opportunities to learn more about loose parts play.

We are really looking forward to seeing the benefits of loose parts play in our school and working with the whole community to make it a success.



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