

Toddler Activity - **EXPLORING LOOSE PARTS**

Materials:

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|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Containers of various sizes: | empty formula cans | Plastic lids/tops | Cotton balls |
| boxes | Tubes | Large river rocks | Hair rollers |
| baskets | Fabric pom-poms | Buttons | Shells |
| bowls | Beads | Popsicle sticks | Paper towel tubes |

Procedure:

When arranging and offering the above listed materials, it is important to position the materials in an orderly fashion so the children can see what is available and the possibilities for their use. Materials that are interesting, accessible and open-ended help children focus and spark their ideas and actions. When offering these materials, follow the child's lead by supporting their right to delight in discovery, share their ideas and theories, and work in amazing, yet predictable ways. (Curtis, 2004)



Math and Science Outcomes for Exploring Loose Parts

- Teachers and children explore working with unusual materials and study what happens
- Children enjoy feeling a part of a group and helping others
- Toddlers explore using props for their own play
- Toddlers transform space and materials to meet their needs
- Teachers support children to form relationships and negotiate with their peers
- Toddlers demonstrate an ability to focus and hold attention
- Toddlers will have varied opportunities and materials to use language; gestures; and materials to convey mathematical concepts such as more, less, big, and small
- Toddlers are provided opportunities to build number awareness, using objects in the environment