



Nature's Loose Parts

Loose parts are a great way to connect children to nature in both indoor and outdoor settings.

Teaching time

Continuous provision station

Learning outcomes

- Have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each number.
- Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5.
- Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed equally.
- Compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other quantity.

Step by step

Loose parts are a great way to connect children to nature in both indoor and outdoor settings.

Natural loose parts can consist of

- Straw
- Mud
- Pinecones
- Sticks
- Leaves
- Tree slices
- Rope
- Off cuts
- Cardboard boxes
- Bamboo canes
- Conkers
- Other natural objects that children express an interest in.

An engaging way to create a loose parts area is to visit a natural green space with children and collect items together. You can explore different objects together and discuss texture, weight, safety, shape and colour. Once you're the loose parts area is set up, it can become a child-led space for enquiry learning. When introducing a loose parts zone ensure safe boundaries are established and group expectations are agreed.

Loose parts enable learners to connect to nature and explore number and shape through natural objects. Loose parts can also create time and space to discover wildlife through creating habitat piles, bird feeding stations or nesting boxes and much more. To discover more about loose parts play check out **The Loose Parts Tool Kit**.

Green Skills



Suitable for

Early Years

Location

Indoors
Outdoors

Season

Spring
Summer
Autumn
Winter

What you'll need

Natural materials (as per instructions)

Key vocabulary

Numbers up to 10

More / less / same

Pattern

Support and extension opportunities

For more activities related to this Early Learning Goal, please visit the corresponding webpage.



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Nature Park and
Climate Action Awards



For more quality-assured learning resources visit
www.educationnaturepark.org.uk

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