



**JAS2026  
Pass Along  
to Parents**

# Rusty's Outdoor Loose Parts Guide

## Did You Know?

One of the simplest and least expensive ways to boost the fun and creativity in your outdoor space is to add "loose parts" for play. Loose parts can be anything such as cardboard boxes, kitchen pots and pans, blankets, tires, boards, traffic cones, milk crates, tennis balls, golf balls, ping pong balls, pine cones, branches, seed pods. It can be almost anything. Children don't really care as long as they can build with it, create with it, make stuff with it.

## WHAT ARE LOOSE PARTS?

Loose parts are everyday materials children can:

- Move
- Combine
- Stack
- Build with
- Transform into something new



## WHY THEY MATTER

Loose parts play helps children:

- Build creativity and imagination
- Develop problem-solving skills
- Strengthen communication and collaboration
- Explore science, math, and engineering concepts
- Build confidence by creating their own ideas

## TRY THESE AT HOME

- Sticks
- Pinecones
- Cardboard boxes
- Pots & pans
- Milk crates
- Buckets
- PVC pipes
- Rocks
- Fabric scraps
- And more!



## Stuff Says Yes!

Did you know that loose parts talk to children? It's true. Just like we adults say yes or no, the materials and stuff we provide for children say yes or no too. If a thing is too precious, too beautiful, too obviously loved by the adults it sends a message that it should be really only be used in certain ways: **the adults aren't going to want me wrecking this stuff. I better be careful.** Whereas loose parts that are a little beat up, a tire, scrap boards, used colanders, or tennis balls in abundance say to the child, "Use me how you'd like to. **Do whatever you want. The adults know I'm here but they've put me here for you.** Be creative! When we're working our best to say yes to children the stuff we supply should say yes too.

**Home Challenge:** Create a basket of 5-10 loose parts and let your child explore for 15 minutes.

**No Instructions. No Right Answers. Just Play**

### WANT MORE IDEAS?



Scan the QR code to access Rusty Keeler's Complete Outdoor Loose Parts Guide.

[www.rustykeeler.com](http://www.rustykeeler.com)