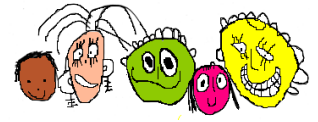


Hamilton Community Pre-School

"Where discoveries, learning and fun connect"



Information Sheets for Parents:

Loose Parts

National Quality Standard – Quality Area 3

Element 3.2.2 – Resources support play-based learning. Resources, materials and equipment allow for multiple uses, are sufficient in number, and enable every child to engage in play-based learning.

Loose parts are materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. They are materials with no specific set of directions that can be used alone or combined with other materials. Loose parts can be natural or synthetic.

In our Pre-School environment we provide an array of loose parts for use in play such as stones, stumps, sand, gravel, fabric, twigs, wood, balls, buckets, baskets, crates, boxes, logs, stones, flowers, rope, tyres, shells and seedpods.

Having "loose parts" available in a play space allows children to use these materials as they choose. Often you will find that children would rather play with materials that they can use and adapt as they please, rather than expensive pieces of play equipment.

Encouraging children to use resources as they choose can provide a wider range of opportunities than one that is purely adult led. Children playing with loose parts are using more creativity and imagination and developing more skill and competence than they would play with most modern plastic toys. It may take a very open mind on our part but when children cross play materials and areas in creative ways, it is our responsibility to support and encourage their work and ideas.