



## Loose Parts

Get some *stuff* out on your street and see what happens. Children are extremely creative and you will be surprised at what they will do with everyday items of junk.

Simon Nicholson devised the theory of *Loose Parts* in 1971. Loose parts are objects or components (stuff) that can be moved around, adapted, built, unbuilt or mixed with imaginary qualities.

Here are some examples the type of *stuff* children could play with

**Cardboard** – boxes, tubes, sheets, cards, corrugated...

**Paper** – scrap, crepe, computer, old magazines, brochures, wallpaper...

**Food packets** – egg boxes, tubes, plastic containers, wrappers, yogurt pots...

**Plastics** – sheeting, piping, crates, bubble wrap, buttons, beads, straws, bottles...

**Fabrics** – sheets, old clothes, hats, curtains, string, netting, ropes, felt, wool, sacks...

**Metal** – old pots/pans, cans, magnets, coat hangers, containers...

**Rubber** – tyres, hose, mats, tubes...

**Wood** – logs, pallets, garden canes, poles, seats, off-cuts, blocks, bamboo, planks...

**Objects** – bowls, buckets, boxes, jugs, plant pots, baskets, wheels, pegs...

**Dressing up** – old clothes, hats, glasses, wigs, masks...

**Stuff to take apart** – old computers, clocks, radios, old bikes.....