

# What You Need to Build Your Loose Parts Kit at Home



**Loose Parts** are materials – such as wood, pine cones, stones and sticks – that can be moved, carried and redesigned to encourage children to interact and experiment with their physical and creative abilities.

Evergreen believes in child-led, unstructured play, occurring outside and with natural materials whenever possible. In these unique times, this approach can be extended to indoor spaces, where recycled materials can be adapted to spark your child’s imagination and problem-solving skills.

Below is a list of materials our Outdoor Education team have found successful for engaging children in self-directed loose parts play. We would like to emphasize the importance of prioritizing natural and recycled items in the interests of supporting sustainability and encouraging children’s connection with the natural world.

It’s important to remember that items need to be gathered responsibly and not taken from parks and public spaces. When harvesting a good rule of thumb to not take more than half of a plant, and to harvest materials that regrow quickly like dogwood and willow.

Let’s work together to keep our community safe by maintaining social distancing. When collecting outdoor loose parts, keep your distance from public park amenities and keep to the nature pocket near you – around your block, on your deck, or in your backyard. This just means getting a little more creative!

## Build Your **Outdoor** Loose Parts Kit with:

- Flexible branches like dogwood & willow
- Leaves
- Sticks
- Burlap
- Rope
- Pine cones
- Wood cookies
- Wooden blocks
- Soil
- Rocks
- Water & watering cans



## Build Your **Indoor** Loose Parts Kit with:

- Cardboard
- Toilet paper & paper towel rolls
- Tissue paper
- Sheets
- Buttons & spools
- String & twine
- Fabric
- Reusable bags
- Beads

