

Overview

One person's junk is another treasure. Never has this been more true than with play equipment. Why not make a wish list of items to save and recycle for play?

Activities

The brilliant thing about junk in loose parts play is the moment children give a familiar object new purpose. A bread crate can become a bridge across sea monster infested waters. A garden hose might turn into a winding path to a magical new world. Ask parents, carers and local businesses to donate items, or visit a local scrap store or reuse centre. This type of play is messy, creative and full of possibility, encouraging storytelling, problem-solving and collaboration.

Learning Outcomes

Allowing children to choose their items and come up with their own way of using the 'junk' will encourage strong communication, collaboration and imagination. If there is a deep engagement, allow the children to return the next day and beyond to advance their junk worlds.

Progression in Learning

- Understanding of size, weight and balance. "Are those items going to work stacked in that order?"
- Physical development: balance, fine and gross motor skills, strength.



Equipment

Small: Plant pots, old bottles, strips of cloth, sieves (make fab insect eyes!), pegs, old telephones

Medium: Chair tops no legs, long cardboard tubes, suitcases

Large: Bread crates, washing machine drums, cable wheels

Key Questions

- Tell me how/why you've chosen that?
- What can you add to make bigger/better?
- This is brilliant, can I help?