Junk Fun

Overview

Ones person's junk is another's 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 refuse centre. This type of play is messy, creative and full of possibility, encouraging storytelling, problem-solving and collaboration.

Equipment

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

Medium: Chair tops no legs, long carboard 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?

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.