



FACING THE FUTURE – TOGETHER

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AN INVITATION TO PLAY

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The play and learning spaces & places are the most visible aspect of the work of educators. Each space conveys a message that this is a place where adults and children have thought about the quality and intention for play & learning experiences.

Expanding our vision of what may be possible in our early childhood programmes can inspire our thinking beyond the notion of a room arrangements --- to exploring the values and beliefs we want to communicate throughout the environment.

Materials in early childhood programmes are the bones of the curriculum and the foundation of the teaching and learning process. Let's explore some new possibilities for play and learning!

[Link to NQF:](#)

Quality Area 3 Physical Environment: Element 3.2.2 Resources & materials & equipment are sufficient in numbers, organised in ways that ensure appropriate and effective implementation of the programme and allow for multiple uses.

Connecting through play learning through participation

In this approach to play and learning, experiences that connect children with the music of their communities and which involves social interactions, are regarded as cornerstones of learning. *"Participation leads to transformation, individuals are transformed through the processes of participation, just as the experience itself is transformed by the involvement of multiple participants."* (Rogoff, 2013).

Connecting through play - introducing the wooden spoon band.



Loose Parts are open-ended materials that have unlimited limitations for play and learning possibilities.

They therefore provide opportunities for multiple learning outcomes, rather than single outcomes.

Collections – by expanding our vision of what may be possible for play & learning, we can be intentional in how we provision the play & learning environment. Nicholson's theory of loose parts is powerful in its simplicity. In any early childhood setting, both the degree of inventiveness and creativity and the possibility of discovery are directly proportional to the number of valuables in it!



Loose Parts are mobile objects that can be carried and transported from one place to another – **INTRODUCING PORTABLE PLAY MATERIALS**



Thinking differently about 'things'

Children constantly use play materials to learn about the world, explore their questions and represent their thinking ... beginning with the examination of the properties and functions of materials (Sensorial Play and Learning), As children engage with play materials, they begin to notice something they already know. With this connection to something familiar, they begin to use the materials symbolically.

Joan Newcomb calls this 'thinking in things'



Loose

Parts

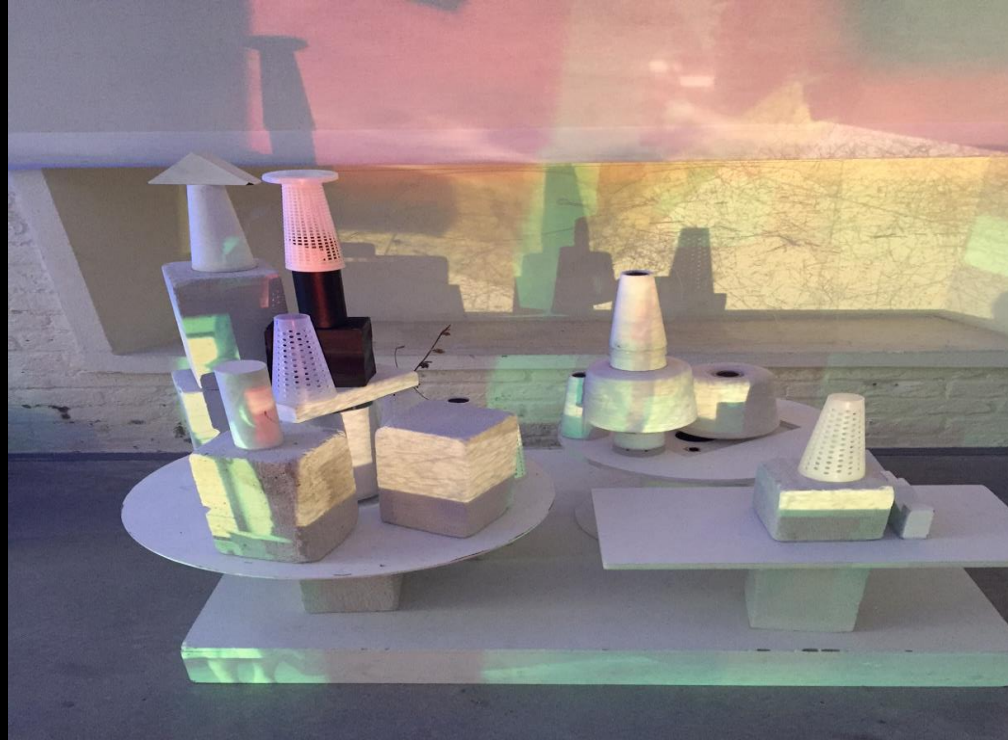
Outdoors!



When **loose parts** are introduced to babies & toddlers, magnificent exploration transpires. Astonishing learning and unexpected capabilities are revealed as the youngest of children make sense of their world.



Loose parts can be beautiful, inviting materials that may captivate children – and are recognised for their significant play and learning



Reggio Emilia 2016

From Home Corner to An Invitation to Contemporary Living

Contemporary living goes beyond the traditional notion of home corner, to include socio-reflective spaces for children ... to be, create and connect with others, using imagined and reflective scenes of everyday life. Contemporary living is purposeful, carefully planned with children, and generous in nature, contributing to children's play & learning experiences in early childhood settings.





A new look for dolls!



Big Ideas for Art & Creative Expression

Discovering the process of making colours can be a discovery – as children gain control they can have with the selection of colour for their particular project

Let's Make a Colour

Let's Name a Colour

Let's Take Home a Colour



Educational Principle: Encourage children to see learning as a process

Link to NQF:

Physical Environment

Ensuring that the physical environment is safe, suitable and provides a rich and diverse range of experiences that promote children's learning and development

Wood Gluing...

An opportunity
to construct
with wood



Would you like to weave?

An opportunity for individual
or shared experiences.

I have yet to meet a boy from
OSHC who wakes up in the
morning and his first thought
is *"I really hope it is weaving
today."*



An Invitation to Sing



References

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