

Play Ranger Loose Part Guidelines

When using loose parts the health and safety considerations are simple and practical.

Before play:

- All scrap should be cleaned and checked that it is safe enough to play with. A good wash and look over should do it.
- With more unusual items, it pays to run your hands lightly over surfaces and bend and wiggle bits to test if they are going to flake, fracture or break.
- Ensure that all part edges and surfaces are smooth not rough, i.e. wooden items. If they have become rough, sand before use or leave out of play.
- Things don't have to be perfect and minor faults can often be remedied by sticking a bit of fabric plaster or strong tape over them just so they're out of harms' way.

During play:

- Inform the participants that as some items are heavier or long, they should not be carried or held above head height and that some should ideally be moved using two people to ensure that no injuries occur.

After play:

- Its always a good idea (if you can) to ask the children to help you tidy up after playing. A lot of mess can be made but it can be easily tidied with many hands.
- Remove all string and sticky tape from the loose parts so they are ready for use next time without you having to sort through everything.
- Whilst tidying up take stock of all the loose parts and identify any breakages, damage or dirt which needs to be sorted out before your next play.

Note: *Playing with these resources is a good opportunity to explore and discuss risk with kids so that they can learn how to better assess risk for themselves.*