LOOSE PARTS: These types of play materials allow for children to be creative and use them in a variety of unique ways to get active, develop motor skills, and improve fitness. They might be scrap, recycled, natural, or bought materials.

- Baby bathtub
- Balloons* 
- Bath Scrunchies 
- Blanket/Sheets/Tarps 
- Blocks 
- Boxes and Cardboard 
- Bubbles and Bubble Wands 
- Buckets/Pails/Baskets 
- Cards (Flash and Playing) 
- Carpet Squares 
- Carpet Tubes 
- Chalk 
- Clothesline Rope 
- Drainage Tubing/PVC Piping 
- Dress-up Clothing 
- Empty Jugs or Plastic Bottles 
- Floor Markers/Shapes 
- Foam Pool Noodles 
- Laundry Basket 
- Leaves 
- Mattress 
- Mirrors 
- Newspapers 
- Paper Towel Rolls 
- Pie Tins 
- Pinecones 
- Pipe Insulation 
- Planks of Lumber/Scrap Wood 
- Plastic rain gutters 
- Plates (paper/plastic) 
- Pots and Pans 
- Puzzles 
- Rattle 
- Recyclable Materials 
- Rocks 
- Rope/Cords/String 
- Sand/Dirt/Mud 
- Saw Horses 
- Shovels 
- Socks 
- Sponges 
- Sticks and Branches 
- Streamers 
- String 
- Tape (packing/duct/masking) 
- Tires 
- Tools 
- Tree Stumps/Cookies 
- Wheels 
- Zip Ties

* Use pantyhose to cover balloons to prevent potential choking hazard.

Tips on using loose parts with active young children:

1. **Do a risk assessment first.** Before providing loose parts to children, think through the potential ways it could be used, potential safety issues, and potential benefits from using it. **Potential safety concerns** include choking, cuts, lacerations, abrasions, bruises, broken bones, and concussion. **Potential benefits** include learning, skills development, confidence, enjoyment, and excitement.

2. **Encourage moving and mixing.** Allow children to combine and move the loose parts around the play and learning environment.

3. **Create a PlayPod.** Provide appropriate storage for loose parts so it is easy to access by children.

4. **Recycle and replace.** Keep materials fresh and new by removing and adding loose parts based on use and condition on a regular basis.