

JENNIFER BERUBE

The Power of Open-ended Materials:
Loose Parts

CONNECTIVITY SUMMER 2020

STRATEGY	Object Metaphor
RESOURCE	Drama-based instruction network
LINK	www.dbp.theatredance.utexas.edu/content/object-metaphor
EXTENSION	Tin foil: Build an object metaphor of an opposing character trait

EXAMPLE OF LOOSE PARTS IN:

AN OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT

- Water
- Sand
- Dirt
- Sticks
- Branches
- Logs
- Driftwood
- Grasses
- Moss
- Leaves
- Flowers
- Pinecones
- Pine Needles
- Seeds
- Shells
- Bark
- Feathers
- Rocks
- Pebbles
- Stones

A PLAYGROUND

- Ball
- Hoops
- Ropes
- Tires
- Sand
- Water
- Dirt
- Straw
- Boulders
- Rocks
- Stones
- Pebbles
- Buckets
- Cups
- Containers
- Digging Tools
- Chalk
- Scarves
- Ribbons
- Fabrics
- Pinecones
- Leaves
- Acorns

AN INDOOR ENVIRONMENT

- Blocks
- Building Materials
- Manipulatives
- Measuring
- Pouring Devices
(cups, spoons, buckets, funnels)
- Dramatic Play Props
- Play Cars, Animals
and People
- Blankets
- Fabrics
- Floor Samplers
- Water
- Sand
- Clay
- Recycled Materials
(paper tubes, papers, ribbons, caps, lids, wood scraps, wire, foam, cardboard)
- Plastic Gutters
- Small Plunges
- Tools
- Art Materials
(buttons, spools, natural and colored popsicle sticks, beads, straws, paints, brushes)

STRATEGY	Squiggle Stories
RESOURCE	Jennifer Berube
LINK	www.dbp.theatredance.utexas.edu/content/object-metaphor
EXTENSION	Have students draw squiggles for each other to sketch from.

The Reusable Resource Association provides a locator list of creative reuse centers where teachers can find reusable, open-ended materials for providing play-based and arts-based learning

Link: www.reuseresources.org/find-a-center.html