

Thoughts on open-ended play

'I have been gradually collecting loose parts and more open-ended play resources. I often look in charity shops, on Facebook selling sites, Amazon and collect natural resources on our walks. I see myself now as facilitator, observing a child's interactions with each other and their resources. Teaching them new skills whilst also enhancing the skills they already have. When I put out new objects I sit back for a few minutes and observe what happens, it's so interesting to see how the children all respond differently.'

Amanda Calloway

'I listen to the children's ideas and follow their interests. I take advantage of any training opportunities and also have read up on loose parts play.'

Claire Chapman

'With child led play, it's providing the space and the freedom to investigate themselves and this builds up over time. Some children just get on with it, some need encouragement and some follow other children's lead'

Deb Bedaida

'I have always used child led opportunities. We start each day looking at the weather and chatting away about what should we do, what can we do, would they like to go out anywhere etc? Also talking about their interests or if anything has happened during the last days that we could use to help us decide what to do. I always make time to chat to the parents and ask their opinion for ideas and work from there'

Sioned Roberts