

# Small World Play

ASCY | Affiliated Services  
for Children & Youth



## **SAFETY TIP:**

Small items are not suitable toys for infants, toddlers, or preschoolers who put things into their mouth.

They are a choking hazard.

## **What are loose parts?**

Loose parts are materials that offer children opportunities to use natural, found materials and objects from their environments. They are materials with no specific set of directions, that can be used alone or combined with other materials. Children can manipulate the materials in many ways and however they would like. Loose parts can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in various ways. The result is that loose parts provide experiences for children to be creative, curious, and imaginative. Loose parts help children make sense of the natural world around them. Loose parts support small world play.



Small world play refers to play with small toys that allow children to use their imaginations to create every day or fantasy worlds with the toys and loose parts available to them.

Pictured here are some small farm animals. In the second picture, lids are being used as loose parts and are representing a grass area and water.

What other loose parts could be added?

- fabric material
- boxes to make buildings
- long pieces of grass
- stones, twigs
- cars, tractors
- art materials
- anything else the child wishes to use

A few other small world play ideas:

- safari animals
- small people/homes
- pet care centre
- aquarium
- super heroes
- roadways and vehicles
- a city
- under the sea
- mermaids
- unicorns