

Using items from around the house

In nursery we use lots of everyday objects to encourage children to explore, experiment, use their imagination and work cooperatively. These items are called 'loose parts'.

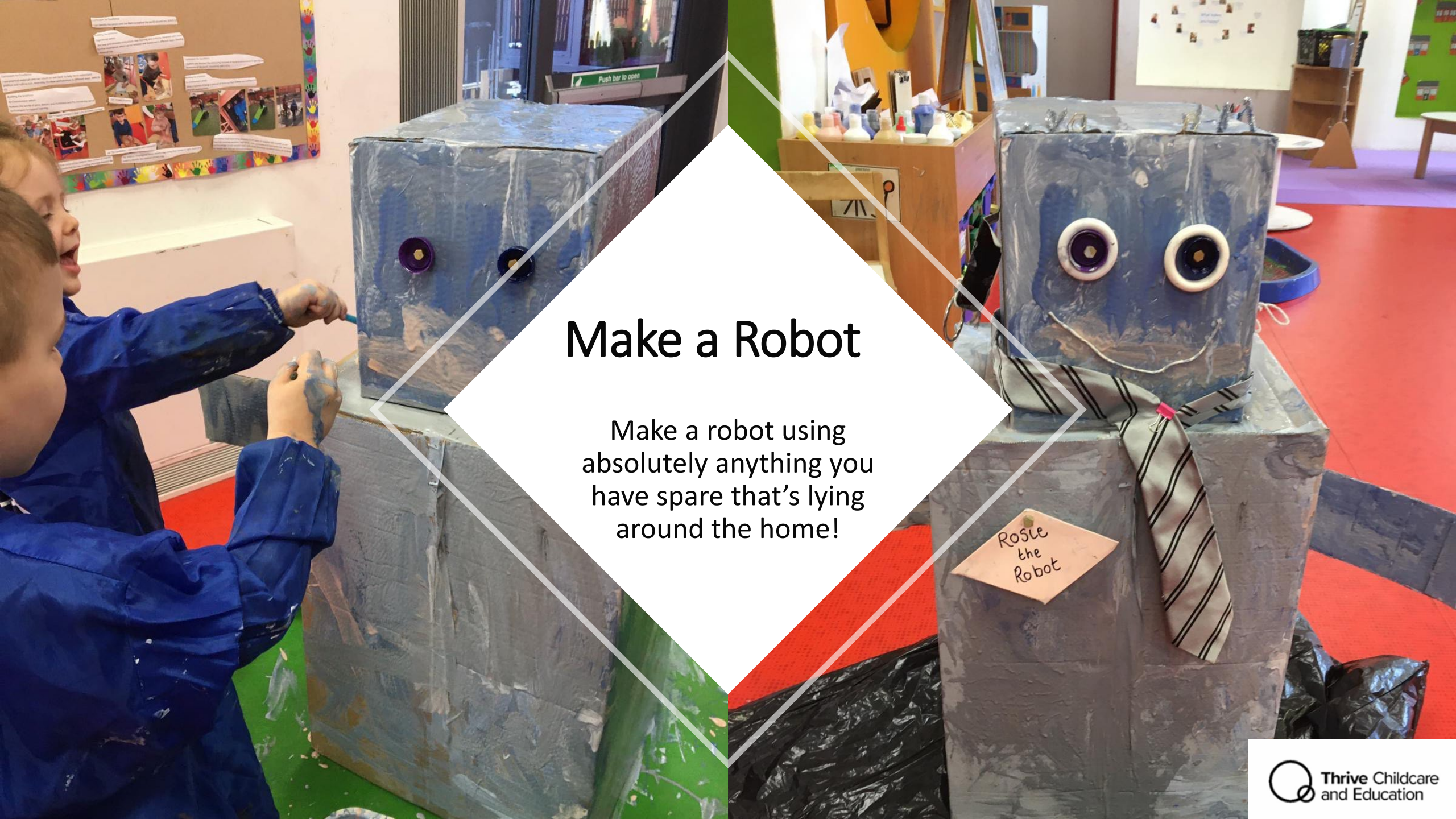
Loose parts are random, open ended resources that can be used for anything, with loose parts there is no specific set of directions of how these resources have to be organised and used.

Open-ended play means that children can lead their own exploration and learning which gives us a real insight into children's interests and skills.

Research shows that allowing children to have access to open-ended play and resources improves concentration, engagement, resilience and self-esteem.

Only use items that are safe for your child's stage and cannot be swallowed.





Make a Robot

Make a robot using absolutely anything you have spare that's lying around the home!

Den Making!

Dens are great additions to any space indoors and out. Children sometimes need the time to relax and separate themselves from the hustle and bustle of the day!

Dens also spark off imaginative play and story telling....a den can be a pirate ship, a castle, a home, a bear's den or a shop!

Den making is brilliant for teaching children, planning, preparation, design, problem-solving and construction!

Suggested items to use for den making:

- Chairs
- Tables
- Crates
- Sheets/blankets
- Cushions
- Pegs
- Fairy lights
- Cardboard boxes



A photograph of a picnic for teddy bears. In the foreground, a white plate holds several sandwiches with white filling and purple trim, alongside sliced cucumbers and tomatoes. Next to it is a pink basket filled with strawberries and green grapes. Three clear plastic cups containing orange juice are scattered around. In the background, several teddy bears of various sizes and colors (brown, tan, white) are sitting on a pink and white polka-dot picnic blanket. One large brown bear on the left wears a red and white striped scarf. A smaller white bear in the center wears a purple bow. The background is a soft-focus green lawn.

How about a tea party or
teddy bears picnic!

Weeding and Digging

Weeding or planting in the garden or even pots for the windowsill are great ways to get moving and using different muscles.

Children can even design their own miniature garden in a pot using things from around the home.





Painting with water outdoors



As simple as using water to make marks on fences, walls and the floor.
Use your hands, a variety of brushes or even spray bottles!

Floating and Sinking Experiment

What you will need:

- A large watertight container
- Lukewarm or cool water
- Various items from around the house and garden

Fill the basin with water

One at a time add the various items to the water and see if they float or sink. Make a prediction first and see if you're right! Ask your child why they think certain items float and others sink.

Extra: Add salt to the water and see what happens to the items that sink!



Growing a Carrot Top

What you will need:

- 1 carrot
- 4 toothpicks
- 1 glass or jar
- Water

Cut the top from the carrot. You'll need about one inch of the root.

Stick a toothpick into either side of the carrot stump and balance it on top of a small glass.

Fill the glass with water up to and barely touching the bottom edge of the stump.

Set the glass in a light, but not sunny window.

Add water to keep it touching the edge and watch the roots sprout. You'll see how fast they grow week by week!



Raincloud in a Cup

What you will need:

- A jar or cup
- Blue food colouring (if you don't have food colouring, you could try non-toxic paint.)
- Shaving foam
- Water

Add water into jar or cup

Add shaving foam to the jar making sure you cover the water

Add drops of the blue food colour and watch the magic

Add different colours to make a rainbow!





Shadow Play

- Shadow drawings – place toys on paper and draw round their shadows to colour in later
- Place objects outdoors and chalk around the shadow at different times of the day
- Making shadow puppets with cardboard and sticks
- Making shadow monsters with your hands!