



PARTS

In Schools Program

by Green Hat Workshop

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BACKGROUND

*GREEN HAT WORKSHOP
promote activities and products
which inspire and empower Creative Minds.*

What are Loose Parts?

Simply put, Loose Parts are anything that is able to be moved by children, from place to place. In this way they can be used and combined in whatever way the play-er chooses. Loose Parts can be 'found' and repurposed objects, as well as those manufactured for the purpose of supporting and inspiring open-ended play.

Why are Loose Parts valuable?

Loose Parts play does the following:

- Integrates sensory processing and motor skills
- Increases student capacity and readiness for learning
- Emphasises creative design, iteration & STEM thinking in 'real world' contexts
- Includes all groups without bias of age, ability, race or gender
- Encourages interpersonal activity and communication skills
- Encourages shared creative play
- Is open ended & offers a vast range of uses (rich in play affordance)
- Offers increased opportunities for improving *Physical Literacy*, diversity in range and dynamic of physical movement, as well as increased overall physical activity in the playground.

A note of Warning

Please consider the following **vital** information.
Introducing a PARTS program into your school is a serious business.

Loose Parts play is characterised by the subversion of the use of objects and experimentation with materials. It is best introduced to schools that feature authentic student empowerment and a liberal, rights-based culture.

It is common for the play-ing to be quite fast and furious initially, especially during the first few sessions, as the children are excited about the range of resources. Almost all children settle into deeper play, given sufficient time. As a school staff you will need to be aligned with the benefits and value of the PARTS for a successful program to be sustainable.

Green Hat Workshop are able to support your school at any stage of this journey.

PARTS Programs

Stages of PARTS Introduction

Participate in as many stages as you feel necessary.

PARTS Workshop - Taster

Green Hat Workshop resource and facilitate Loose Parts play during your school's morning recess and lunchtime.
Enough PARTS for 100+ participants.

\$600 for first day and \$300 p/day following - part of a broader program.
A stand-alone event \$1,300

Stage 2 - The Basic Package

Introductory pack of materials, delivery, information sessions for teachers & OSH Staff, Student leader information session, placement/location advice.

Parts Workshop, \$600 + PARTS, \$400* + Stage 2, \$2,000 = Total \$3,000

*Options available for consultation on collecting and maintaining your own loose parts collection.

Stage 3 - Consultation Program

Playground audit and development report, advice on risk & benefit and school-wide play policy, consultation on development of a playful community, extended staff development on play and ongoing support for a year.

Stage 2, \$3000 + Stage 3, \$2,400 = Total \$5,400

Just the PARTS and nothing but...

No introduction consultation, playground audit, storage, policy or risk/benefit assistance; **Just the PARTS** appropriate for a school setting and for up to approx 60 students.

Green Hat Workshop provide your school with an introductory or "top up" of loose parts curated by our education manager.

\$400 (Melbourne Metro delivery)

PARTS Storage options

Playground Audits provide details of the best option and position for your storage.

The POD – Converted Shipping Container with roller door

\$3-\$5,000

The Big Shed – metal garden shed with double doors and cement paver floor

\$1,300 Inc. setup 3mx3m

The narrow option – metal garden shed and cement paver floor

\$700 inc. setup. 3mx1.5

School Alignment (Pre-PARTS organisational alignment)

Provide students with optimum opportunities, varieties, environments and support for play with full collegiate, parent and student support. In partnership with highly experienced teaching professionals, national and international leaders in change management, personal coaching, organisational alignment and schoolyard cultural development, Green Hat Workshop help your staff find common ground and work towards a school culture with play at its center.

Request a quote.

Pre-introduction

PARTS Workshop

The Taster

A Green Hat Workshop Facilitator introduces and manages a PARTS play session, including the introduction of the concept and materials, facilitating play and managing the practicalities of clean-up and dynamic risk management.

Test the program to see what potential might be available for your school community.

Suitable for 100+ participants, in your school playground.
Up to 2 hrs duration.

\$600 as an introduction to a broader program, \$300+ for each consecutive day following.

\$1,300 as a stand-alone incursion event (5-6 hours of play).

Stage 2

The Basic Package

Now you've got a bit of an idea of how PARTS look in your school ground and have some idea of the benefits, its time to get down to business...

One hour of staff professional development briefly covers the following:

- Basic play theory, Think like a playworker.
- The value and practicalities of PARTS at your school
- Potential barriers for success – Common mistakes and pitfalls
- Your playground and the positioning of the PARTS

Student leader, ownership and capacity development, briefly covers the following:

- Checking PARTS and playground
- Distribution and collection
- Core values and beliefs about the PARTS and play

With an introductory collection of PARTS and under the watchful eye of a Green Hat Facilitator, your ready to start your journey.

Stage 3

The Consultation Program

Now you're a PARTS school, Fantastic!

Now you've had PARTS at school for some months, you've braved and survived the children's initial "whoopie" period, during the PARTS introduction; the schoolyard play has now settled to a deeper, more thoughtful and exploratory experience.

During this time you may have seen an improvement in student attendance and general mental health, in the regularity of using growth mindsets, their approach to academics and an improvement in some students' willingness to be creative, to take chances and to participate and engage in challenging activities.

This is great!

Now that you and your colleagues are certain you want the PARTS program to be a permanent part of your school, it's time to commit to some routines, procedures and to do the paperwork.

Typically at this stage you will need support communicating with insurance companies, some members of your parent group, your more administrative-types on school council and even ensuring some of your staff fully understand their role in a busy, creative playground.

You will want to sustain and protect your program and the best way to do this is by renewing your collegiate commitment, aligning your beliefs and committing them to paper and enshrining them in 'living' policy and ongoing procedure – Let nothing get in the way of your school's continued benefit from such a valuable program.

It seems like a tough job but we're here to help.

Stage 3 is all about balancing risk and benefit, nailing down your school's play policy and ironing out a shared understanding of your values around play, risk, supervision and the authentic agency of your students. It's also about auditing your school yard and developing plans that reflect your play policy into the future.

Stage 3 includes

- Ongoing miscellaneous support
- A Professional Development on what using loose parts and a truly play-based pedagogy looks like.
- Consultation on the creation / maintenance of a Risk & Benefit document
- Consultation on the creation / maintenance of a school play policy
- Assistance on alignment / re-alignment of staff
- Assistance on school community alignment / re-alignment
- A full school-yard audit and advice on play-valued development of the physical space.

Now is also a time to tell the world!!! Let everyone know about how great the program is and how wonderful your school is.

Need some extra and ongoing assistance during your ongoing school play development?
Just ask.

*Introductory kit and Termly PARTS
assessment and top-up*

Just PARTS and nothing but...

An introductory and top-up PARTS pack contains found and manufactured loose parts curated by our Education Manager and with an aim to provide for and inspire as many evolutionary play-types as is practical in a school setting.

We include in each collection of PARTS, a range of shapes, sizes, mass and materials to subtly engage children with opportunities for physical and cognitive development and variation of design and technological thinking.

An initial kit will provide enough PARTS for up to 60 participants at a time.

Examples of Loose Parts in your introductory collection could be the following:

- Car, bike and go-kart Tyres
 - Ropes (thick & thin)
 - Rope netting
 - PVC piping
 - PVC half piping
 - Traffic cones
 - decommissioned life jackets
 - Clothes pegs/plastic clamps
 - plastic pallets
 - Logs
 - Bamboo & tea tree staves
 - Steering wheels
 - Foam tubes
 - Plastic drums
 - Milk & bread crates
 - Bucket & paint brush sets
 - Ducting
 - Elastic
 - Carpet sample squares
 - Cardboard tubes
 - Foam mats
 - Cloth
 - Plastic seats
 - Cloth sacks
 - misc. kitchen bowls & utensils etc.
- ...and more

What to keep them in and where?

PARTS Storage Options

We are unashamedly “expert” in our advice on the type and placement of PARTS storage.

Our advice is based on our partners’ decades of experience and on the consideration of the wholistic needs of the school, on a case by case basis.

The location of classrooms and halls, the shape of the campus and students’ usage of the space, the length of time for recess, carpark and adjacent roads and any specific playground designs and geographical elements and more, are considered by Green Hat Workshop when we advise on placement and of a school’s PARTS collection.

This is to maximise safety, engagement, ease of management and ultimately the sustainability of the project.

We hope you will consider our advice carefully when selecting placement and type of storage.

The Shipping Container – Play Pod

The most famous loose parts program in the world remains the Bristol Scrapstore Play-Pods a program which is now leased to more than 2,000 schools across The United Kingdom. At the time these were established, in the 80s, shipping containers were cheap and plentiful in Bristol... not so in Melbourne in the 2020s. A good waterproof shipping container costs between \$2,500 and \$4k and then installing a side door for easy access is a further \$1,500+. Then delivery and any following movement is conducted by a tray-truck and a talented driver, this can be a further \$300+.

They are perfect for a PARTS program and can be organised either directly through a container company, or through ourselves. Quotes will vary.

The PARTS SHED

Semi-permanent tin garden sheds are growing in number in school yards across Australia, containing kitchen garden tools, sandpit equipment and more. A tin-shed of a similar volume to a shipping container is a very cost effective way to store your PARTS collection, particularly if your playground presents as two distinctly separate spaces and has two storage requirements.

Tin sheds range in cost, depending on where they are sourced and their size. We suggest having a double door on the longest wall and that they are firmly anchored to the playground or to a cement footing. A tin shed is easily moved and/or dismantled.

A shed can be constructed by your staff, by parent helpers, or by us.

Appropriate tin sheds range in price from \$700 - \$2,000+

Pre PARTS Consultation

Full School Alignment

You and a small leadership team want a PARTS program and greater value placed on play at your school but.. you feel like no-one would ever agree or support such a broad change in a school culture that is rich with complex relationships.

Some schools have a strongly supportive teaching collegiate who find joy in sharing with each other the roles and responsibilities of a school community, who trust that their colleagues will support them and where feedback is open and welcomed, where programs are developed and sustained that broadly support the students' growth and enrich the community... then there are schools where this isn't the case.

School alignment is for teams in schools where the posters on the hallway walls featuring messages of *sharing* and *co-operation* are 'only for the kids'. Where group-think is common, where collegiate mentoring and the intentional development of *professional capital* is low, where the excitement and learning of an inspiring professional development lasts until the weekend and where teachers isolate themselves, working only with 'their' students and protecting 'their' resources.

Having now worked in dozens of these types of schools both here in Australia and around the world it became quickly apparent that for safety and sustainability, that sometimes deeper cultural transformation is required prior to the introduction of a PARTS program.

We have therefore created valuable partnerships with several world-class human resource and change management consultants who are expert in organisational development and who have decades of experience in education and corporate cultures, coaching individuals and teams and assisting communities in negotiating some quite challenging times.

For many Australian children, play shared at school with friends, is really their **only** authentically shared, self-directed, play experience. This experience, while short, has a massive impact on their social and cognitive development, mental health and potential future, regardless of how positive the planned pedagogy of the school or the natural talent of a teacher may be.

We have included 'Alignment' in our PARTS program offering because we firmly believe that the opportunity for self-directed play is vital for all children and that the culture of the staff room shouldn't be a barrier to this. If you are reading this and recognise any of the symptoms above PLEASE PLEASE reach out and let us help you.

When the time is right, a PARTS program and broader support for schoolyard play, will give your school community a shared, positive, healthy goal to aim for.