

# JRPS' Universally Accessible School Yard Featuring

## Loose Parts Play

### 1. Why do we have a Loose Parts Play Area?

- We want all of our students to be able to play together using a variety of organic materials in an outdoor setting fairly and equitably regardless of ability.
- Our School Yard allows all students to apply what they learn from the Ontario curriculum.
- Our School Yard allows students to be physical, connect with nature and to reflect.
- JRPS' outdoor school yard allows students to practice skills they will be using when they join the workforce such as: cooperation, responsibility (character traits), team work, problem solving, care for the environment, using the imaginations to create innovative ideas, etc.
- Our School Yard is good for students' physical, emotional, social and mental health.
- Playing outside is safe in Canada and we dress appropriately for all weather (hot and cold).

### 2. Who can play in Loose Parts Play?

- All students can play in our school yard. See the attached rotation schedule.
- Community members can use our school yard after school and on weekends.

### 3. When can children play in Loose Parts Play?

- The general path area has multiple uses: biking and scooter riding, wheelchairs, walking/jogging, etc.
- The Loose Parts Play bunker is monitored by trained adults during morning recess and lunch recesses.
- Teachers can bring their classes out during school hours and use items in the bunker.
- During "asphalt only" recesses, students can use the path. The Loose Parts Play Bunker will remain closed as will the grassy area, the log forest, rocks/benches, sand pit, nest, etc.


## What are the features of Loose Parts Play and how can I use them safely?

Area Description	Do/Do Not	Cautions	Safety
<p><b>Small Sand Pit</b></p> 	<p><b>Do not use.</b></p> <p><i>For gym class only for track and field skills.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surrounded by grass.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Nature Nest</b></p> 	<p><b>Do not use when wet/icy.</b></p> <p><i>If damp/moist inside, use red saucer from bunker or close area.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remind kids to roll away from tree when on top of the nest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four kids at a time may sit in it.</li> <li>No jumping into the nest.</li> <li>OK to roll down the sides away from trees.</li> <li>Surrounded by grass.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Two Small Hills</b></p> 	<p><b>Do not use when wet/icy.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be slippery if wet or icy.</li> <li>No pushing/fighting.</li> <li>Remind kids to roll away from stone seating area and tree.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can roll down the hill.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Two Log Benches</b></p> 	<p><b>Do not use when wet/icy.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be slippery if wet or icy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kids may sit or walk on them.</li> <li>Tag, hiding games OK. Building forts with items is OK.</li> <li>The one facing west is designated as a "Buddy Bench" - Kids who sit here need a friend/attention.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Log Snake</b></p> 	<p><b>Do not walk on the logs.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be slippery if wet or icy.</li> <li>• No pushing each other off or fighting.</li> <li>• No walking/ running on logs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is intended for shaded seating.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fence and Picture Frames</b></p> 	<p><b>Do not climb the fence</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frames to stay on fence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kids may weave materials in fence.</li> <li>• May be used for fort building with wood and tarps etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Log Forest</b></p> 	<p><b>Do not climb on the logs.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be slippery if wet or icy.</li> <li>• No pushing each other off or fighting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OK for running games, fort building, giant ring toss etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Shaded stone seating in corner and low stone seats in mulch near tree</b></p> 	<p><b>Do not stand on the logs/stone.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mulch stays off paved path.</li> <li>• Broom in bunker to sweep it back under tree area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intended for shaded seating.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Big rock near fence backdrop</b></p> 	<p><b>Do not climb on the rock table.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No climbing on rock.</li> <li>• Slippery when wet or icy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is intended as a table and sign post.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Large, oval sand play area defined by low, stone wall</b></p>  <p><b>Black plastic pipe is an access point for kids who use wheelchairs.</b></p> 	<p><b>Sand stays on the ground inside the pit!</b></p> <p><b>Do not walk on the rubber black pipe.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stones slippery when wet or icy.</li> <li>• Sand rules basically same as snow rules: No throwing sand at people or outside pit.</li> <li>• Do not eat sand.</li> <li>• Brooms (big and little) inside bunker if needed for students to sweep it back into pit.</li> <li>• Encourage children to dust their clothes off and dump sand from shoes back into pit before leaving area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OK to sit on stone walls.</li> <li>• OK to sit in sand and play.</li> <li>• Rock wall is intended to hold the sand inside</li> <li>• Black rubber pipe is for students to lay on to access and reach for sand.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kettle Rocks (2)</b></p> 	<p><b>Do not climb on the Kettle rocks.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students may get wet.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OK for kids to play with the little bit of water that will pool here from time to time.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intended for water table play.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Paved Path</b></p> 	<p><b>Keep bunker door closed so nobody walks/runs into it when traveling on path.</b></p> <p><b>Grade south of portables is steep for wheeled vehicles.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bunker door may open/shut quickly in big wind.</li> <li>• May be a slippery when wet or icy.</li> <li>• Path is not maintained in winter.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OK for kids to run or walk here, even during “asphalt only” recesses.</li> <li>• Bikes/scooters used only after school hours.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mulch in rainbow shaped garden area</b></p>  	<p><b>No running through grasses growing in mulched garden.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All mulch stays off the trail/grass.</li> <li>• Use broom in bunker to sweep off path/short grass.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OK to sit in mulch and play.</li> <li>• Future “web” site</li> </ul>
<p><b>All Trees</b></p> 	<p><b>No climbing, pulling branches. Leave mulch watering saucers and green Gator bags.</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intended to provide shade. Sit under them.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Future Plant Material Tunnel</b></p> 	<p><b>Please do not access when branches grow close to path</b></p>	<p>Prune branches back to make a tunnel.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students can crawl into the tunnel.</li> </ul>

## Rules for Loose Parts Play Bunker

- Bunker Key is in the office.  Return when the bunker is locked back to the office.
- The bunker contains a variety of “open ended” items that can be used for building, sand play, games. These items change over time.



## RULES

- ONLY adults unlock the bunker door (bunker door is heavy and when it is windy, the door can swing unexpectedly shut).
- Students line up at designated spot to access items from the bunker.
- Tidying up starts 5 minutes before the recess entry bell rings.
- Student volunteers can help put items back into bunker.
- Bunker has brooms for clean up in it. Students are expected to sweep misplaced sand/ mulch.
- The whole area must be left tidy - items returned to their spots in the bunker or piled up outside.
- The whole area must be left clean - no mulch/sand on trail.
- Branches and tree pucks may have to be piled outside, near bunker.
- Adults watch for broken, unsafe items and remove them from the bunker as needed.
- ONLY adults lock the Bunker door once all items are returned.

## Breaking Loose Parts Play Rules

**Loose Parts items are returned back to the bunker immediately,  
bunker locked and no playing with the items until the following recess.**