



LOOSE PARTS SCULPTURES



This is a fun project where the clay becomes like a glue, holding together many different loose parts. I've found that providing sticks is an important component of young children's success with fine motor skills. It's easy to push the stick into the clay base and attach more clay at the top.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- » Potter's clay
- » Assorted nature loose parts and metal loose parts
- » Burlap or canvas cloth



THE INVITATION: CLAY

This is one of my favorite clay projects. In my twenty years of using this invitation, children from ages three to ten have loved the process. I'm sure your children will, too!

WORKING SPACES

I cover the table with burlap or canvas cloth and set up a tray for each child with clay I have already cut from the slab. In the center of the table, I like to set up a buffet of assorted nature and loose metal parts for them to choose from and bring back to their trays.

THE PROCESS

This is truly an activity you set up for the children and then let them experiment and explore the materials on their own. I place a piece of clay down for the children to begin their building. I teach the children that the clay is like glue and will allow them to build up and out.





Remember, the first time around, sticks are an important loose part to provide in this activity. Children can easily poke the stick into the clay. It is also easy to squeeze a piece of clay onto the stick. This will allow the children to see the many possibilities of building with clay.



After the sculpture dries, you can coat it with Mod Podge or clear spray acrylic.

