



STORY TIME

STICK AND STONE RESOURCES

Story Time Description

Do you miss hanging out with your friends? Of course you do! Which is why I chose to read *Stick and Stone* by Beth Ferry & Tim Lichtenheld for story time. It's a funny story about kindness and friendship between a stick and a stone. When stick gets stuck, it's stone to the rescue. That's just what friends do, they rock! This story also features some easy to find natural loose parts like sticks, pinecones, and stones (rocks). Go outside, find some and play!

Children's Picture Books about Unlikely Friendships, Creativity, and Imaginative Play

- *Penguin and Pinecone* by Salina Yoon
- *Carrot & Pea* by Morag Hood
- *Friends Stick Together* by Hannah E. Harrison
- *Bad Apple: A Tale of Friendship* by Edward Hemingway
- *A Friend Like You* by Andrea Schomburg and Barbara Rottgen
- *Amos & Boris* by William Steig
- *Friends: True Stories of Extraordinary Animal Friendships* by Catherine Thimmesh
- *A Rock is Lively* by Dianna Hutts Aston
- *Scribble Stones* by Diane Alber
- *Rhoda's Rock Hunt* by Molly Beth Griffin
- *A Rock Can Be...* by Laura Purdie Salas
- *Let's Go Rock Collecting* by Roma Gans
- *If You Find a Rock* by Barbara Hirsch and Peggy Christian
- *National Geographic Readers: Rocks and Minerals* by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld
- *Rock Collecting for Kids: An Introduction to Geology* by Dan R. Lynch
- *Stick Man* by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler
- *Sticks* by Diane Alber
- *A Stick is an Excellent Thing: Poems Celebrating Outdoor Play* by Marilyn Singer
- *Not a Stick* by Antoinette Portis
- *Not a Box* by Antoinette Portis

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- *The Squiggle* by Carole Lexa Schaefer
- *What to Do with a Box* by Jane Yolen
- *A Box Story* by Kenneth Lamug
- *Roxaboxen* by Alice McLerran
- *Chalk* by Bill Thomson

Other Useful Resources

-
- Watch a group of first graders sing “Make New Friends, But Keep the Old” - YouTube video by Melanie Pizzini
- Watch Not a Stick book recommendation and activities - YouTube
- www.tinkergarten.com/activities/great-wall Great activity about building a wall using sticks, twigs, and dowells
- www.playfullearning.net
- www.fairydustteaching.com/loose-parts
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Pen and Paper Phonics – Great *Not a Stick* Activities

<https://www.penandpaperphonics.com/book-activities-not-a-stick>

Inspiring Loose Parts Play in Young Children Series

All four of the books are written by Lisa Daly Miriam Beloglovsky

Loose parts are open-ended materials that offer tremendous play value and provide children with a whole range of activities. A rich selection of loose parts can include both natural and manufactured items.

In the books there are more than 550 colorful photographs of many kinds of loose parts and suggestions on how to use them. The books also provides inspiration and information about the ways loose parts support open-ended learning, enhance play, and empower children. With loose parts, the possibilities are endless.

Lakeside Nature Challenge

Part of our new approach is the [Lakeside Nature Challenge](#). The Lakeside Nature Challenge is a daily video that infuses education, experiments, and experiences to urge kids to go outside and interact with their surroundings. We initially thought of this idea at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, as schools closed, and parents began to wonder how they could continue their children’s education. We wanted something that would give parents something to teach or do with their kids, while simultaneously giving kids a reason to go outside and do something that wasn’t on a screen.

Early Space

www.earlyspace.com

Nature Play at Home by Nancy Striniste Founder of Early Space

Children & Nature Network

www.childrenandnature.org

This website will keep you updated on ways to stay connected to the natural world during COVID-19. Each week new resources from incredible partners, tips, tools, blogs and webinars, along with the best and brightest ideas from the field will be posted.

Nature Play at Home

www.naturalearning.org (**download the guide**)

Developed by the Natural Learning Initiative and the National Wildlife Federation, this guide shows easy, affordable ways you can turn your backyard or other types of domestic outdoor spaces into vibrant Nature Play Spaces™ for children so they can reap the physical and mental benefits of playing outside. Creating natural play opportunities can be part of the solution to increasing the amount of time kids spend in the great outdoors for the health of their minds, bodies, and spirits.

Exploration – Take a Walk in Your Backyard and Neighborhood

As you walk around your neighborhood or in your backyard look for stones (rocks) on the ground. There's lots of opportunities to spark creative thinking and to ask open-ended questions about stones (rocks) you may find such as:

- How heavy is the stone?
- Is the stone round?
- Is the stone smooth or bumpy?
- What shape is the stone?
- Can you tell me about your stone?
- Why did you choose that stone?
- How many ways can you use the stone?
- Can you make up a story about your stone?
- What will you do with the stone next?

Thing to do at Home to Reinforce a Positive Connection between Children and Nature Using Sticks and Stones

- Allow children to play with sticks and stones indoors and outdoors
- Allow children a place where they can store their found natural loose parts
- Set clear boundaries and expectations about sticks and stones play
- Have a collection of stones for sorting and counting
- Use stones to promote early literacy by creating stones with words, letters, and children's names
- Take daily walks and collect sticks and stones (have a magnify lens handy)
- Provide non-fiction books and concrete materials
- Utilize the resources from this post