

## **Materials for children to use outside: what teachers know and parents might not.**

**Toilet paper and paper towel tubes:** great for building with, connecting, using for tunnels or pebble/ball chutes

**Twisty-ties:** great as a connections tool, twist together for longer/stronger connections, helps in building and construction, make bubble wands

**Empty, rinsed out spray bottles:** fill with water and spray on rocks, fences, sidewalks, use along with chalk and stencils

**Plastic shopping bags:** for found collections, parachutes, kites

**Empty egg cartons:** rock/stone/pebble/treasure collections, use as a seed started/mini-garden, make into a Mancala game (with found pebbles), cut up and use as craft material

**Empty boxes of all sizes:** forts, construction material, collections, make stencils (and use with the spray bottle), firetruck/car/tank...

**Teaspoons:** perfect for digging, scooping, scraping. Every explorer needs one.

**Tablecloth:** sail, picnic blanket, roof for fort, cape...

**Baby food jars:** insect examination, collections, water/mud mixtures, rain collector

**Colanders and strainers:** bubble wands, "pan for gold", puddle/mud play, fill/dump, use as bucket or bowl

**Old pots and pans, measuring spoons, cups, ladles, etc...**these support all sorts of pretend/dramatic play, can be used to store or haul found items, and music making

