LOOSE PARTS PLAY EQUIPMENT IDEAS

Tyres
From cars to tractors, motorbikes to bicycles, tyres are a fantastic, easily accessible resource. Tyres can be rolled around, walked on, climbed upon, stacked and are generally used in lots of creative ways. They can also be semi-permanent barriers to create play areas or planters.

Bread Crates
These are stackable and great for building but you can also tie ropes on to them for pulling, they can be woven, and can even be turned into a cosy wee sitting space with a few cushions or fleecy material.

Guttering
There are many different sorts of guttering. heavy weight black guttering can take a lot of abuse, from kids jumping, dropping and moving it. Lighter coloured smaller guttering is easier for little children to carry around but is much less robust. You can cut guttering into a range of different lengths as well.

Ropes
Sisal, blue poly rope, washing rack rope, washing line, climbing ropes and interesting ropes with no name! Remember to seal the ends and they can last a long time. Start slowly, talk about rope safety and the do's and don'ts of ropes before slowing introducing a wider selection.

Hoses
Garden hoses are far more robust than play hoses.

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Pipes
From the big black plastic pipes big enough for children to crawl through down to small pipes for water walls, they come in a range of sizes and lengths. They tend to last really well and it is easy to get cut offs from builders etc.

Fishing Net
One proper fishing net will last you for years. Some children love them, enjoy being caught and use them creatively. Others find the texture harder to deal with.

Cable Drums
They come in all sizes, from small enough to roll around to big enough to be used as tables.

Logs, Sticks and Stumps
Sticks and wooden disks decay, but the rate tends to be a lot slower with bigger logs and stumps. This is another great way to create a barrier as well as be used in play.

Steering Wheels
These are quite heavy but very tough.

Stones
From numbers, letters, story stones and more, these can be handy to have. They are also good for creating art and sorting.

Creative Star Learning have an extended guide available at https://creativestarlearning.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/EY-Outdoor-Loose-Parts-Play-Resource-List-.pdf