

MERRICK LIFE

Vol. 71 No. 44 (USPS 049-500) Merrick, NY 11566

The Community Newspaper

Thursday, October 30, 2008

75c

Imagination comes to life at Merrick Library

by Rebecca Sands

On Sunday, November 2, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., children will have the opportunity to participate in, "Loose Parts, Free Play," a program created by The Early Years Institute to challenge the imagination of children of all ages.

The purpose of the program is to remind children and parents that in a generation packed with video games and electronic devices, it is important to remember the simplicity of imaginative "play." The program, which is free of charge, will use "loose parts" (recycled and natural materials from around the home) to show children how being creative can make everyday objects fun.

"Loose Parts, Free Play" will be held at the Merrick Library, 2279 Merrick Avenue, and is open to children ages 14

and under. Children must be accompanied by an adult and should bring "loose parts" such as assorted pieces of fabric, old scarves or clothes, cardboard rolls, empty cereal boxes, yarn and string, stones, shells or pinecones. Children may also bring non-motorized or non-electronic toys.

The program will include a variety of activities that will help with developing gross motor skills and fine motor skills, as well as concrete problem-solving skills. In addition, children will learn about their interaction with the surrounding environment and work on building their social skills.

For information about "Loose Parts, Free Play" please call 304-5480. For more information about The Early Years Institute, visit www.earlyyearsinst.org.

