

## "Not a Stick"

A stick is a stick until you're ready to use your imagination. Here is a toy that costs nothing, doesn't need batteries and has multiple uses. From a hammer to a wand, a fishing rod to a pony, let your child show you just how versatile this "not a stick" can be!



### Why?

- \*builds gross motor skills (pulling, lifting, carrying large sticks)**
- \*encourages imagination and wonder**
- \*provides opportunities for language development and communication**
- \*promotes self-regulation and social-emotional learning**
- \*helps develop problem solving skills**

### How?

- 1) Look for a stick. Allow your child time to choose the one that's just right for them. Let them pick it up, feel it, inspect it and maybe even change their mind a dozen times.
- 2) Ask questions about their stick - or just observe quietly. Sometimes it takes a while for the stick to become something else. Sometimes they know right away!
- 3) Follow their lead. When adults engage in child-led play we empower the children and show that their thoughts, ideas and feelings are important and valued.
- 4) When your child is finished playing ask if they are going to leave the stick or take it with them. Tomorrow it may be something else. It may never be just a stick again!

