

Play and the EYFS



Play is a central part of the requirements of our statutory framework, the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and is a very important part of a child's daily life. Through play, the child is learning about the world around them and play helps them to develop across all 7 areas of learning – communication and language; personal, social and emotional development; physical development; literacy; mathematics; understanding the world; expressive arts and design.

We love this quote from Michael Rosen: 'Free play is trial and error without fear of failure'.

Play includes singing songs and rhymes, dancing to music from around the world, reading books and comics, exploring letters and numbers through fun games, going outside to explore nature and the natural world, finding out how things work, climbing and swinging at the park, getting messy, being offered a wide range of creative activities every day, having fun with friends... and much, much more.

Engaged, interested adults are essential for guiding and supporting a child's play – we know when to leave the children alone to explore their own games and when to get involved and support their learning. Adults are also important because we provide games which the child will enjoy and which link in with their individual interests, so that the child is enthusiastic about play and engaged in their learning.

We are required by the EYFS to observe (watch and listen to) the children while they are playing and notice what they are doing and what they know. This helps us to spot their current interests and think about when we can offer new activities to help them make progress. We do this as part of our daily routine... watching, listening and planning as we go along, so that the child's learning is constantly stimulated and challenged.

Parents can help us to understand about their child's play by sharing information about what their child is doing and saying at home. For example, let us know whether the child makes any comments about the activities they do here or keep us updated if their child learns something new at home.

We are required by the EYFS to share ideas with parents to support their child's home learning. We do this by letting parents know about activities their child has enjoyed, so they can maybe try them again.

If you have any questions about play or the 7 areas of learning, please ask. Thank you.

Childcare Happy Days
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