



What is Play-Based Learning?

A play-based approach provides children with long blocks of uninterrupted time to explore their classroom environment and outdoor space, making choices whilst being supported by teachers and support staff who encourage and scaffold learning.

The Role of the Adults

The adults in the setting have a very important role. They aim to know all about the children they work with and what interests and excites them. This, in addition to their knowledge of child development, helps them to enhance a child's learning by modelling, commenting, and questioning whilst interacting with the children. During a play interaction, an early years practitioner will be considering how they can further communication skills, maths skills, social skills, physical skills, enquiry skills, creative skills and much more!!

Why Do We Play?!

If your child is 5 or under, then there is a high chance that they spend the majority of their time learning through play.

Here's why...

The Setup of the Classroom

The resources on offer will be carefully considered to best meet the needs of the children in the group. Some settings may provide play stations that are set up each morning in different areas of the room, whereas others may organise resources so that children can choose what they are getting out that day. The adults in the setting will constantly assess the quality of the materials and the engagement levels of the children, making changes accordingly.

What are the Benefits?

For learning to take place, a child needs to be engaged. A child in the early years is much more likely to be engaged if they are making choices about their learning. A play-based approach appeals to a child's natural curiosity and desire to engage in experiences based on their interests and strengths.

What are observations?

Observing how a child plays is a key part of a play-based approach. The adults in the setting will gauge when to observe and when to skillfully interject. They will only interrupt a child's play if it will add value to the child's learning.

