

How Can I Support My Child's Learning through Play?

- Value play as a valid method of learning.
- Talk to your child about what they enjoy playing with at nursery or school.
- Spend time playing with your child at home following their interests.
- Extend your child's learning through questions, comments, wondering out loud, modelling language by using new words and structures when you talk to your child.

Further Information

www.playscotland.org

<https://upstart.scot>

Play Strategy for Scotland: Our Vision. The Scottish Government (2013)

Building the Ambition. The Scottish Government (2014)

If you have any questions relating to Learning through Play, please contact the Head Teacher who will be happy to answer any questions.

A Guide to...

Learning Through Play

Information for Parents and Carers



visit [twinkl.com](http://www.twinkl.com)



What is Play?

Play can be any activity, imaginary or with toys, that is...

interesting for them

chosen by them

fun for them

something they
want to do



Children have the right to play.

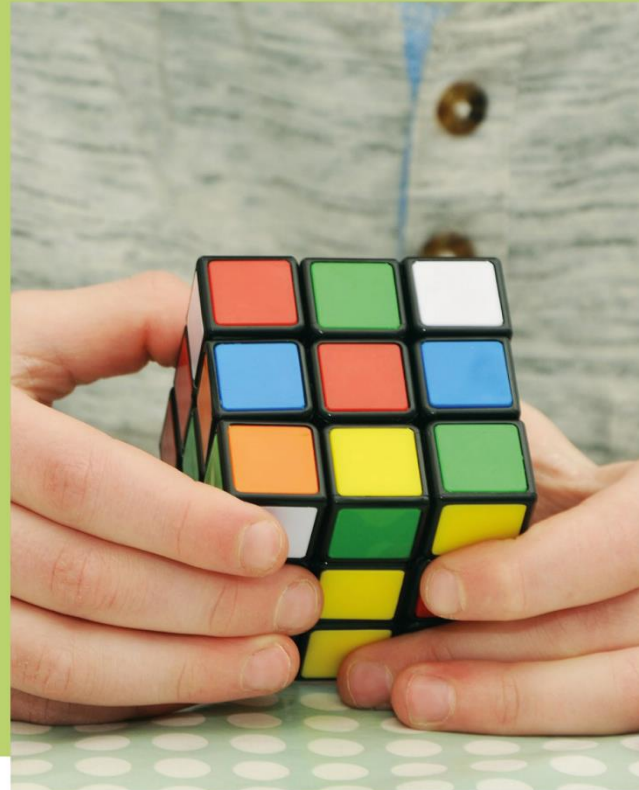
'the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child'

Article 31 of the United Nations on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Why Play?

We should not think of children as 'just playing'. Young children learn most effectively through play. When they play, children are developing their cognitive, physical and communication skills. Play also develops children's social interactions, imagination, creativity, emotional regulation, resilience and wellbeing.

Many early level children are not ready to sit still and listen for an extended length of time. Instead they learn by doing, trying, observing, collaborating and problem-solving through play. Learning through play is fun, engaging and motivating for children. It enables them to follow their own interests, make choices and learn at their own pace and level.



Types of Learning through Play

Free Play or Child-Led Play

Free play or child-led play is entirely initiated and directed by the child. The adult's role is to observe and interact by commenting, pondering or questioning to extend learning. The adult will plan next steps in learning and may add new resources or activities to provide opportunities for the child to deepen their learning and consolidate their skills.



Adult-Led Play or Active Learning

Adult-led play, sometimes called Active Learning, is initiated and directed by the adult. Specific learning intentions are planned for by the adult and each child will participate in play-based activities related to these. This approach can be useful as it provides the fun and enjoyment of play whilst simultaneously focusing children's learning in areas that they may not choose during free play.