Play England

Making space for play

The role of play in excellent early years provision

Catherine Prisk, Assistant Director
Play England

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The role of play in excellent early years provision

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- The importance of play
- What is play?
- Charter for Children's Play
- Playwork
- Play within early years

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The importance of play

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- All children need to play
- Brain development
- Social and emotional
- Pre-literacy and numeracy
- Downtime
- Joy of being
- For FUN!

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What is play?

- Play is a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated
- ‘Play is what children and young people do in their own time, for their own reasons’
- Play types (Bob Hughes)

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Charter for Children's Play

- Children have the right to play
- Every child needs time and space to play
- Adults should let children play
- Children should be able to play freely in their local areas
- Children value and benefit from staffed play provision
- Children's play is enriched by skilled playworkers
- Children need time and space to play at school and Early Years
- Children sometimes need extra support to enjoy their right to play

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Playwork

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- Play is a process
- Playworker responsible for
  - Environment
  - Opportunities
- Quality of the play experience

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Play in excellent early years settings

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- EYFS is play-based
- Balance of adult & child-led
- Outdoor play vital
- Make links with play providers
- Guidance is out there
- Consider role of trained playworkers
- All staff trained in play?

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Further information

- www.playengland.co.uk
- www.dcsf.co.uk/play
- www.skillsactive.co.uk
- Design for play
- Managing Risk in Play
- Charter for Children's Play

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Contact Details

Catherine Prisk
Assistant Director – Policy, Practice and Communications

Email. cprisk@ncb.org.uk
Tel. 020 7833 6812

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