

If play is so important to young children what can we do to ensure children have lots of opportunity to play?

- Give them time to play and get involved in real learning adventures
- Give them freedom to play
- Give them space to play
- Join their play but don't take over
Allow them to own their play
- Recognise it doesn't need to have an immediate outcome
the evidence develops in each unique child as they grow up
- Provide open ended resources—*things that can be what the child wants them to be*
- Support growing interests and fascinations



Play results in learning:-

- perseverance
- Sound concept development
- skills for reading and writing
- reasoning language competence
- judgement control courage
- adaptability creativity compassion
- physical competence
- individuality self control power
- investigative thinking
- Original ideas
- trust love
- responsibility concentration



**WINDSOR NURSERY
SCHOOL**

OUR RECIPE FOR PLAY

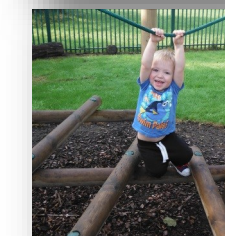
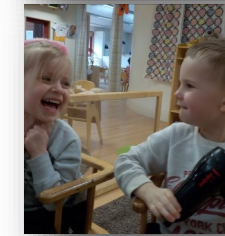
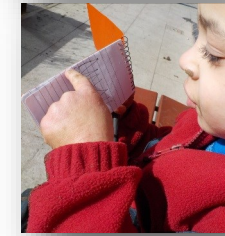




Children haven't changed—play is still the most important way that children learn

Lots of research has shown why play that is chosen by the child is important

- Children use it to explore and make sense of the world,
- They use it to find out about their world and their relationship to it
- Play gives them a feeling of agency— 'I want to, I know how and I can'. It makes them feel strong in tackling problems - an essential life skill we all need!



PLAY IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE:

It enables children to develop flexibility in thinking

Playing about with things encourages children to try things out and be flexible. They adapt to challenges they encounter, keep going and begin to solve their own problems

It enables children to develop essential social and behavioural life skills

Working alongside others in play is the most effective way to begin to understand about feelings—to be able to learn about sharing, taking turns and negotiating

Through being in charge of their own play children feel strong and master self chosen challenges. It is deeply satisfying

When children are in charge of the play they experience the feeling that 'I can do it'. It feeds their *curiosity*, *confidence* and builds their *courage*

When children are playing it reveals what children know and what they have learned

It reveals their *competencies*— 'You discover more about a person in one hour of play than in a year of conversation'—Plato

PLAY enables children to become resilient, flexible and self assured learners

Do you remember playing when you were a child?

Think back...

What did you play with?

Where were you?

Who did you play with?

Who was in charge of it?

Do you remember what you learned through it?

Do you remember how you **felt** when you were playing what you wanted - with who you wanted to ?