

# Learning Through Play

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## What is it?

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## What do we believe?

As a school, we recognise learning through play as a valuable pedagogical approach for several reasons:

- Play supports the holistic needs of children, nurturing their cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development in an integrated manner.
- Through play, children encounter real-world challenges and scenarios, allowing for authentic, meaningful learning experiences that resonate with their interests and experiences.
- Play encourages divergent thinking, experimentation, and risk-taking, cultivating creativity, innovation, and problem-solving skills essential for success in the 21st century.
- Play promotes positive relationships between peers and with educators, creating a supportive, inclusive learning environment where children feel valued, respected, and safe to express themselves.

## Research:

A number of theorists and behaviourists highlight the importance of play as a developmental stage for all learners. Some significant research by Vygotsky and Piaget can be drawn on to support the importance of play.

Play does not become a focus to replace the need for structured and explicit learning in Reading, Writing and Maths - in fact it supports the development of these foundations.

