



Play and Learning - Newsletter Two

The Birth to Five Matters guidance we follow is a play-based curriculum made up of 7 areas of learning

There are 3 prime areas

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

Physical Development (PD)

Communication and Language (CL)

There are 4 specific areas

Literacy (L)

Mathematics (M)

Understanding the World (UtW)

Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

Practitioners prepare the pre-school environment to promote learning in all 7 areas.

Our pre-school room is made up of different spaces -

Role-play area

Construction area

Creative area

Small world area

Book Corner

Sand and water area

Music area

Table tops

Outside area

During this newsletter, I want to talk to you about the sand and water area and how it links to the 7 areas of learning.

Sand and water are natural, open ended resources that children love to use their senses to explore! Open-ended resources promote imagination and problem solving skills, which helps the children to develop their learning styles and allows them to direct their own learning. Sand is also wonderful for children who display different schemas, such as the transporting, transforming or trajectory schemas.

The sand and water area also promotes learning in all 7 areas, here is how...

... Children learn to share and take turns, whilst building relationships with each other. They learn to play with one another, progressing from an independent, onlooker style play, to associative and co-operative play, as sand and water play can be very social. They are practising their emerging skills in being imaginative as sand and. Water play is also fantastic for children's imaginations. They might use the water area to make drinks for one another, pretending they're in a cafe, or use the sand to dig up fossils!

Children learn new vocabulary modelled by adults and peers and practice using the vocabulary they already have, as they talk to each other during play.

The sand and water tray is fantastic for supporting mathematics. As children fill containers and empty them out, they are learning about capacity and figuring out through their play how much things can hold. They are lifting the containers and beginning to understand that sometimes it feels heavy and sometimes it feels light! They count scoops of sand and begin to recognise numerals on different containers, they use containers to measure quantities of sand and scales to weigh

As children lift, scoop and tip sand and water, they develop their gross motor skills and hand eye coordination

We use the water tray to discover why things happen, such as sinking and floating and freezing and melting

Children make marks in the sand with fingers and different tools as they develop their fine motor skills and their mark-making skills.



We love learning through PLAY!

