### Play Based Learning for KS1 Nord Anglia International School Children

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#### What is Playing to Learn?

Play is the medium by which all children learn best through:

\* exploration.... to use all their senses to learn

\* manipulation and adaption.... to learn through adapting other children's and adults ideas

- \* trial & error.... to find out for themselves and not be afraid of making a mistake
- \* improvisation.... to be happy to change their method and thinking and improve
- \* acting it out.... To take the role of a character often helps shy, reluctant children talk freely to one another

# How do we solve every day mathematical problems?



by working it out together!

#### Types of play for 5 to 7year olds:

Sensory Play learning through senses	Exploratory Play Learning by finding out	Manipulative Play Learning by touch/feel/handle mould	Dramatic Play Learning by role-taking/ pretending	Creative Play Learning by creating
textured/scented/c oloured play- dough textured/scented/c oloured water-play textured/coloured sand play cooking	mixing colours shades/dark/ light relationships between shapes spatial relations numbers & patterns sizes	Blocks, lego, duplo, Brush blocks paper-folding cutting/pasting physical	pretending to be people animals/ transport acting out situations role-play	drawing paintings collages printings stories songs music & sound patterns

### How do we work out a science experiment involving dinosaur teeth?

By playing in the sand with a variety of different shaped bricks the children soon found out that a long, thin shape made a deeper hole when dropped, than a wide, flat shape. So we were able to research and hypothesize into the use of dinosaur teeth and their functions.

#### Social and healthy play

 where you want the children to be interactive, fit, healthy and happy

Teachers and TLAs supervise and monitor large groups of children during 'play times' which is generally a combination of directed and free play

Directed Play where you want the children to learn or practise a specific set of skills Teachers and TLAs supervise and monitor groups of children during lesson times and direct them towards their learning goal through questioning and advice

Free Play where you want the children to be independent free thinkers and choose what they want to do Teachers and TLAs supervise and monitor individual children to make sure they are choosing a wide range activities and skills



### Playing to learn and learning to play?

Learning to play effectively with other children gives them a strong foundation to learn to work with adults when they grow up. The basic laws of co-operation, compromise and understanding another point of view are the same no matter how old they are. So, lets play a whacky game.....

#### **Stages of Play**

Within Key Stage 1, children could go through any of these stages of :

\* Passive on looker

\* Solitary player - plays by her/himself

\* Parallel play - plays beside another player

\* Associative play - play in a group with similar resources, but no shared goals or roles

\* Cooperative play - team play with specific goals and roles with shared input



#### **Characteristics of Play:**



Children's play is:

- \* spontaneous-a spur of the moment thought
- \* self-directed-they are in charge
- \* self-regulated- they make up and adjust their own rules
- \* based on individual learning styles- mostly kinesthetic
- \* self absorbing-they go into their own little space



## Going shopping!

Children of all ages need to be 'street wise' and letting them out to do some independent shopping isn't like it used to be unfortunately! So, we (that's you and school!) have to give them lots of opportunities to learn important life skills both at home and school. Giving them a page of 'money sums' to complete doesn't help anyone..... Those who <u>can't</u> do them... need more play Those who <u>can</u> do them... don't need to again ...and the teacher doesn't need all that

...and the teacher doesn't need all that marking!!

..but she does need to KNOW!

So we watch and listen to them play, that way

we can input some more focused learning for

that individual child or group.

Play Based Learning is:

- \* child-centred the needs; interests; abilities of the students; learning styles are reflected in the program; setting up of the environment, with a wide variety of resources for selection and choice making, enabling each to learn in their own way achieving the outcomes, as well as, their own unique milestones
- \* student/peer initiated they take the lead and choose what/how/with what will they play
- \* teacher guided/supported/scaffolded:
  - hands on
  - hands above
  - hands off



Play Based Learning is important because it:

\* is developmentally appropriate



\* is inclusive of all stages of development

\* is supported by evidence based practice and brain research that inform the need for, and the nature of learning opportunities for children to develop attitudes, skills and understandings

### Let's do an activity!

- Get into pairs or friendships groups
- Pick up a white board and pen per group
- Write..." what are we learning here?"
- Go into the Panda Playground
- Wait and listen for further instructions...
- Come back into the meeting area and we will discuss your ideas
- Playing during the PowerPoint?

