

Core skill: To be able to engage with purposeful symbolic play

Activity zone



Role play/small world

Sing to him a new song; play skilfully, and shout for joy.

Psalm 33:3
New International Version



Northaw CE Primary School

Learning sequence

- Guide their own thinking and actions by referring to visual aids or by talking to themselves while playing.
- Make independent choices.
- Play with increasing confidence on their own and with other children, extending and elaborating play ideas.
- Bring their own interests, experiences and fascinations into early years' settings.
- Develop pretend play: 'putting the baby to sleep' or 'driving the car to the shops'.
- Plan and think ahead about how they will explore or play with objects.
- Use props, costumes and small world toys to engage in play.
- Take part in pretend play imagining objects are other things from their experiences.
- Begin to make their own small worlds to act out storylines.
- Use new taught vocabulary in their play.
- Use pretend play to think beyond the 'here and now' and to understand another perspective.

Adult support

- Offer open-ended resources.
- Provide a well-organised environment so that children know where materials and tools are and can access them easily.
- Extend children's interests by providing stimulating resources for them to play with, on their own and with peers, in response to their fascinations.
- Join in with children's play and investigations, without taking over. Talk with them about what they are doing and what they are noticing.
- Offer children many different experiences and opportunities to play freely and to explore and investigate.
- Make time and space for children to become deeply involved in imaginative play, indoors and outside.

Key vocabulary

play
pretend
act
role play
re-enact
storytelling
props
costume
small world
characters

Related core skills

- To be able to develop and extend a narrative
- To use familiar vocabulary

Curriculum ambition(s)

- Use imagination to re-enact familiar and unfamiliar roles and experiences