

Getting Involved in Play

Ever thought to yourself:

Do I play enough with my Day Care Children?

Am I an interactive Carer?

Do I interfere in their games, just to follow my planning?

Our role in child's play is important; but the hardest thing for us is finding a happy balance between being a focal point for the children at play, stimulating the play with older children without directing the play and withdrawing to encourage each child to interact with other children or resources without our direction. Then we need to teach ourselves how to maintain this new happy balance, while remembering that each child will have different individual requirements.

Ensure that experiences are appropriate for the child's age and abilities. Experiences should be relevant to the child's interests and skills development. If you don't then your children may become frustrated, bored and feel incompetent. Monitor child's play so that you can challenge them and participate when needed.

Allow children to choose their own activities, by providing a range of different materials, toys, ideas but still allow for the children to make choices in what they will use and how they will use it. Open ended materials are best as they challenge various skill levels and help imagination to grow.

Open Ended play:

Open ended play materials allow your children to play in a multitude of ways, there is no wrong or right approach just a learning opportunity. Just remember that children do not need expensive toys to support their learning..... try:

Playdough, clay, sand, water, paint, drawing, blocks etc...

Interact with the children while they are playing, but be respectful of your involvement:

- Very young children need you to help them maintain their interests.
- Older children need your ideas, explanations and suggestions to help them extend their play.

ALL CHILDREN need your assistance to behave appropriately while they play and set clear limits and where appropriate, encourage children to resolve their own conflicts. (Perhaps with your assistance)