

Guidance for parents



Remote Learning in Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The Importance of Play

Remote learning -learning away from school- is a challenge for all of us right now. However, we are very fortunate in the EYFS, because children at this stage of development do so much of their learning through play.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The EYFS applies to children from birth to the end of the reception year. In Solihull, we greatly value the importance that the EYFS plays in laying secure foundations for future learning and development. We believe that play underpins the EYFS and it is an essential part of your child's learning and development. We hope that the following information will help you to think about how you support learning through play at home, and will reassure you that when children are busy enjoying different kinds of play they are learning.

The Importance of Play

When children are playing, they are learning at the highest level. Play is one of the main ways in which children learn and develop. It allows children to develop their language skills, emotions, creativity, problem solving, developing memory and concentration and much more. It develops a child's confidence and enables them to discover feelings and ideas. Playing is the most natural way that you as parents and carers can help your child to develop new skills and learn about the world around them. Outdoor play offers children different types of physical experiences as well as supporting their emotional wellbeing.



What will learning through play look like at home?

Within Solihull, we believe that schools and parents should be working in partnership to understand the best ways to support children's play at home because you know your child best. We are committed to supporting young children's remote learning experience, and so will be offering a range of play-based ideas. Children in the EYFS benefit from short structured activities, which are playful, as well as opportunities to direct their own learning through play. It is during these activities that children will be fully engrossed in what they are doing and active learning will take place. Play should be fun and enjoyable for children. Play takes many forms such as; role-play, block and building play, looking at storybooks, playing with playdough, filling and emptying with water, looking at leaves, rolling down hills...these are all such valuable learning experiences.

- Turn off the TV or any other electronics.
- Allow a large amount of time each day for play.
- When engaging in play, follow their lead - get down to their level and play alongside them.
- Try to add a little more vocabulary or description to your child's play.
- Have fun!

Five things every parent should know about play

1. **Play is the fundamental way for children to learn and develop.** Play and learning go hand in hand; they are not separate activities but intertwined. Children play because they need to find out things and it is essential for children to learn.
2. **Play encourages communication.** Play allows children the opportunity to develop speech and language skills, as well as listening skills. Children talk and listen while they play. The more vocabulary a child is exposed to on a day-to-day basis, the greater variety of words a child will use.
3. **Play is healthy and helps your child to grow emotionally.** Play is fun and it provides an outlet for children. Play builds self-worth and enables children to feel good about themselves. It is also important to healthy brain development and it is through play that children engage and interact in the world around them.
4. **The role of the adult.** Children love having a play buddy (you), someone to talk to and join in with their thinking.
5. **Indoor learning and outdoor learning are equally important.** Outdoor learning is important to children's health, development and well-being. Exploring outdoors is extremely beneficial and necessary for their development.

Outdoor play helps children to learn about nature and gives them the opportunity to use their whole body.

To further support this document on what play may look like when learning at home, further guides will be available linked to the EY curriculum, giving suggestions of a range of fun activities for children to take part in at home both indoors and outdoors.