

10th of April 2025

....this is Lisa Morris's interpretation of what Ofsted talked about at the supporting play event- including risky play.

So they thanked Ali for generating some lovely memories of the long time that we all spent outside as youngsters Ofsted reference the Best Start research collection talking about how to ensure that Ofsted see what settings planned to do to support play and risk.

Ofsted stressed there is no preferred style and that settings make curriculum and pedagogy choices to support children's progress. As part of the regulatory team members get notifications when settings haven't managed risk quite well enough and children have been injured. It was pointed out that sometimes you might make the decision that play is best and at other times direct instruction.

There was also a note of the peak in physical exercise at school entry at 5 and how important it was to ensure that children have access to a full body physical movement. The curriculum is not how you teach but the content of what you teach and the what to teach and why it's needed. It comes before how to best support that learning and Ofsted used the phrase *practise makes permanent* to embed knowledge and learning. That practitioners need clear goals and what teaching is intended. They referenced the Ofsted definition of teaching. Sometimes adult direction is needed, at other times play based learning is offered for children, and appropriate risk taking can be part of this.

The Ofsted speakers noted research which started in COVID-19 about the lack of physical activities and risky play opportunities and how this impacted on children's development. We need to give children opportunities to do things for themselves to be independent and to be appropriately supported to take their own managed risks and to do things for themselves so for example if you tightly hold a child consistently as they're walking again a longer raised plank, then they won't get their sense of balance. They talked about why this, why now, and why these children?

Practitioners doing the right thing for children is doing the right thing for Ofsted