

## TYPES OF PLAY

There are 5 recognised types of play:

1. **Physical:** includes active exercise play (e.g.: jumping, bike riding and ball play), rough-and-tumble and fine-motor practice (e.g. sewing, colouring, cutting, junk modelling and manipulating action and construction toys).



2. **Play with objects:** objects begins as soon as infants can grasp and hold on to them; it includes mouthing/biting, rotating while looking, rubbing/stroking, hitting and dropping. This might be described as 'sensori-motor' play when the child is exploring how objects and materials feel and behave. From around 18-24 months toddlers begin to arrange objects, which gradually develops into sorting and classifying activities. By the age of 4 years, building, making and constructing behaviours emerge.



3. **Symbolic:** a wide variety of symbolic systems including spoken language, reading and writing, number, various visual media (painting, drawing, collage) music and so on. This type of play supports their developing technical abilities to express and reflect upon their experiences, ideas and emotions.



4. **Pretence/socio-dramatic play:** High-quality pretend play has repeatedly been shown to be very closely associated with the development of cognitive, social and academic abilities.



5. **Games with Rules:** Young children are strongly motivated to make sense of their world and, as part of this, they are very interested in rules. As a consequence, from a very young age, they enjoy games with rules, and frequently invent their own.



## PLAYING WITH YOUR CHILD

Please find below a selection of websites that support playing with your child:

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone>

<http://www.playtalkread.scot/>

<http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug>

<http://www.learnwithplayathome.com/>

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-at-home/Learning%20through%20play>

GATEHOUSE  
PRIMARY



# Learning Through Play



# INTRODUCTION

There is a focus on active learning in the early level both in the Nursery Class and Primary 1.

**Active learning is learning through play.**

**What is play?** Play is freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that engages the child.

‘A play based curriculum is now widely considered to be the most appropriate approach for the development of young children's learning.’

(Curriculum for Excellence)

To enable children to develop:

- Socially
- Emotionally
- Cognitively
- Physically

we should provide a quality, stimulating play environment, supported by appropriate interaction and sensitive intervention.

# DEVELOPMENT OF PLAY



- Play begins at birth.

- **Solitary Play:** As a child develops they become more active in play. The child is at an egocentric stage: playing to meet their immediate interests.



- **Observer Play:** During this stage a child will watch others play, learning the behaviours of play.



- **Parallel play:** Parallel play is the stage at which children play alongside others. Although they are sharing space and resources the children are playing independently.



- **Associative Play:** Associative play is the beginnings of cooperative play. Children may share materials but pursue their own ideas, and rules begin to develop.



- **Cooperative Play:** This stage of play may be very complex. Children begin to negotiate and there are rules to the play.



- Play should include opportunities to: investigate, explore, create, imagine and solve problems .

