

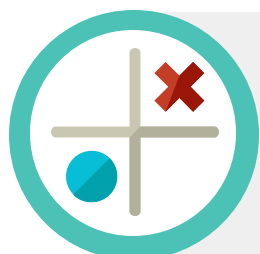
The benefits of game play

Games encompass simple games that children create, board games, card games, and physical games such as 'What's the time Mr Wolf'. Games should respond to children's interests and be optional, as this is more inclusive of children's needs and wants.



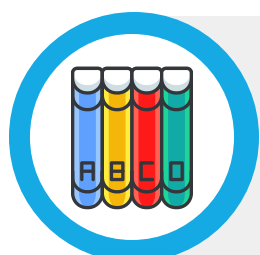
Rules

Games have rules that can be very simple, or quite complex. The more rules the children can follow, the more cognitive skills they have. Following rules in games supports children's social skills and abilities to understand the rules there are in a society.



Turn taking

Turn taking is a skill that children develop as they move from independent and parallel play as they get older. Through turn taking children learn patience, they learn to regulate their emotions as they follow the rules and wait for their turn.



Concepts

Games can be fun ways to introduce a range of concepts like shape and colour awareness, matching, sorting, counting, problem solving. Depending on the game you can also introduce other concepts such as telling time, classifying, life cycles, animal habitats, spelling, observing etc.



Respect

Playing games teaches children respect for the rules, other children, the equipment etc. By learning respect children develop emotional skills and this will support them as they progress through life. It should be encouraged to recognise children are still learning and to support them.



Transfer knowledge

Through playing games with children you can gain an understanding of what knowledge the children have in a range of different areas through how they play the games. Creating games for the children allow you to provide these opportunities and assess their knowledge.