

The benefits of small group play

It can sometimes be difficult to assess learning and ensure every child's needs are being met in large groups, but small group play provides a number of benefits to the children involved including...



Social skills

Working together with a small group allows for social skills to be developed without overwhelming children by having to wait too long for a turn, or negotiate with too many other voices. Children learn to be respectful of each other while also feeling respected.



Language development

Language skills are developed through communicating your ideas with others so that everyone has a voice. This could be through verbal communication, images and symbols to represent ideas, or gestures and other forms of communication which then need to be decoded.



Shared thinking

Working with others allows for collaboration and negotiation to work towards a common goal. You need to be able to adapt and respond to other's ideas and communicate your ideas clearly so that there is a positive outcome for all.



Scaffolding from others

Scaffolding children, much like scaffolding around a building, provides support while development occurs. Through working in a small group with the children educators can role model different approaches, share different ideas, and support children through questioning and feedback.



Secure attachments

All of these benefits listed above support children to feel valued, supported, and have their voices heard and included. This in turn leads to children feeling like they matter and can trust educators which builds positive relationships and decreases behavioural issues.