



At Hindhayes we are committed to providing high quality play provision in our generous, inviting and creative school grounds. Hindhayes achieved the highest possible **'Platinum'** award for play in 2019.

The Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) programme has been shown to support behavioural and inclusion improvements as well as supporting children's wellbeing. OPAL is founded on the principles and values of playwork, where the roles of the adult is to understand, celebrate, resource, nurture and support the play process.



Why do we play?



Play is our brain's favourite way of learning.

Play is a key way in which young children learn with enjoyment, enthusiasm and challenge. When playing, children behave in different ways. Sometimes their play will be boisterous, sometimes they will be quiet, sometimes they will describe what they are doing, sometimes they will be quiet and reflective whilst they play.

In the Foundation Stage children play and explore in different ways:

Finding out and exploring

- Showing curiosity about events, objects and people.
- Using their sense to explore the world around them.
- Engaging in open ended activities.
- Exploring and showing their own interests.

Playing with what they know

- Pretending objects are things from their experiences.
- Representing their experiences in play with others.
- Taking on a role in their play.
- Acting out experiences with others.

Being willing to 'have a go'

- Initiating challenges.
- Seeking challenge.
- Showing a 'can do' attitude.
- Taking a risk, engaging in new experiences and learning by trial and error.



At Hindhayes staff plan to ensure that play opportunities take place that are:

- ◇ Emotionally, intellectually, physically and socially challenging.
- ◇ Supporting children to make sense of their experiences and develop their understanding of a range of ideas and concepts.

Some play activities involve adults leading and supporting children towards a pre-determined objective. Some will be activities that will be 'adult initiated' where the child determines the outcome without the support of an intervening adult. Finally there are those play situations that the children initiate themselves and this is where staff often observe the greatest creativity, richness of language, depth in personal understanding and skill in social behaviours.



Through providing a secure environment with effective adult support, the children in the Foundation Stage can:

- Explore, develop and represent learning experiences that help them to make sense of the world around them.
- Practice and build up ideas, concepts and skills.
- Learn how to control impulses and understand the need for rules.
- Be alone, alongside others or co-operate as they talk or rehearse their feelings.
- Take risks and make mistakes.
- Think creatively and imaginatively.
- Communicate with others as they investigate and problem solve.