

# PLAY in the FOUNDATION STAGE



**BELLAGHY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

An information booklet for parents

At Bellaghy Primary School, together we strive to build firm foundations for our children's learning:-

Please consider the following points!!

- Foundations take longer to create than buildings.
- The higher the building, the firmer the foundations have to be.
- If foundations are inadequate, it is very expensive to underpin them later on.

*To build these foundations the key learning tool is -*

*PLAY - a child's work*

**PLAY IN THE FOUNDATION STAGE AT  
BELLAGHY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

We aim to provide your child with as many valuable play experiences as possible in a variety of play areas: -

**DRAMATIC PLAY**

Dramatic play gives children the opportunity to:

- Express themselves
- Explore language freely
- Find out about themselves and others
- Develop co-operation, care and consideration
- Exercise choice and make decisions
- Use mathematical language and concepts
- Explore a fantasy world of their own creation

**SMALL WORLD PLAY**

Small world play is a type of imaginative play, which enables children to be creative and spontaneous:

- It encourages talk
- It allows children to create stories
- It allows children to communicate
- It promotes improvisation

**CREATIVE PLAY**

*Art and Design* - In creating, designing and making, children investigate and use a variety of materials and techniques to explore colour, line and shape, form, texture and pattern.

***Music*** - Through music children experience pleasure, joy and creative expression. In P.1 children will have opportunities to enjoy music, participating in playing instruments, singing and moving rhythmically, listening to music and creating their own music.

***Movement, Dance and Drama*** - In P.1 children are given opportunities to express themselves imaginatively and recreate roles that develop their personal and social development.

***Story telling and role play*** - Children will be given opportunities in P.1 to express their imagination freely.

## **WATER PLAY**

Water play allows children to:

- Take turns and share
- Learn how to use water safely
- Explore personal hygiene
- Develop fine motor skills
- Use tools safely
- Talk about creatures that live in Water
- Explore the properties of water
- Compare amounts of water
- Talk about shape of containers
- Observe how objects behave in water  
e.g. float/sink

## **SAND PLAY**

Through sand play children learn to:

- Learn to respect others ideas
- Experience therapeutic value of working with sand

- Develop fine motor skills through manipulating tools, pouring, filling, pushing, stirring, moulding, patting, and digging
- Explore 3 D forms
- Pattern drawing
- Talk about beaches and building sites

## **CONSTRUCTION PLAY**

Construction Play allows the children to:

- Select different equipment for different types of construction
- Compare different types of materials and their properties
- Ask questions about how things work
- Use a variety of tools, hammers, scissors and masking tape
- Explore mathematical concepts e.g. size, shape, number and space
- Recognise and name shapes in the environment
- Solve problems
- Compare height, weight and width
- Talk in detail about what they have made
- Listen to instructions

## **I.C.T. PLAY**

This area of play involves playing with the computer, interactive white board, interactive toys or listening to tapes/CDs. While engaged in any of these activities children are developing:

- Concentration skills
- Listening skills

- I.C.T. skills - ability to interact with a programmable device
- Various Mathematical, scientific, geographical skills
- Fine motor skills
- Problem solving and decision making skills

### DOUGH OR CLAY PLAY

Children love working with dough and clay - it is relaxing and creative and there is no right answer. This type of play encourages the development of:

- Fine motor skills, manual dexterity and manipulative skills
- Concentration
- Creativity
- Language and social skills
- Sensory experiences

### OUTDOOR PLAY

We aim to play outside weekly (weather permitting). As well as being in the fresh air which undoubtedly has its benefits, outdoor play helps develop a wide variety of children's skills e.g.:

- Imagination
- Teamwork skills
- Problem solving skills
- Decision making skills
- Creativity
- Physical development
- Co-operation
- Language skills