

Big Picture: Play is both fun and motivating for young children. It helps to promote areas of development and allows children to gain new skills

Internal Assessment

You will be expected to show your knowledge and understanding of learning aim A to complete an internally assessed assignment based on the following:

- Show an understanding of the stages of play from 0-5 years
- Discuss how the role of an adult could affect learning
- Consider how adult’s role can affect how a children learn.

For this task you will produce an information booklet. It must include:

- The different ways in which children play, including an assessment on how play is organised and the role of the adult in supporting play.
- Within your booklet you must include detailed examples to describe the six stages of play children experience between birth – 5 years, giving examples of play activities suitable for each stage of play.
- Continue your booklet to give examples of how play can be organised to promote learning, assessing the advantages or disadvantages of child-initiated, adult-led and adult-initiated play.
- You must include examples to show the role of the adult in organising play and the most effective way to organise children’s play activities to promote learning in all stages of play.

Component 2A - Understand how children play

1. Key concepts			2. People	3. Processes
The stages of play differ for different age groups.			It is important for adults to provide play opportunities in different settings and to lead play.	Stages of play: the role of an adult in play, how an adult can affect play.
Stages of children’s play			How play can be organised to promote learning: Adult-led play	The role of adults in promoting learning through play
Unoccupied play	Birth – 3 months	movements with arms, legs, hands, feet etc., learning how their muscles move.	Adult-led play: adults plan, organise and lead the children in a play activity potential benefits – can include higher-risk activities where children can learn specific skills and how to use resources and equipment safely, the adult can introduce new vocabulary potential disadvantages – learning is limited by the adult’s choice of activity and time given to it, limited repetition of the activity to enhance learning new skills.	Organise a variety of activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inside/outside activities • individual/group activities, including games or sensory activities, art and craft activities, games.
Solitary play	Birth – 2 years	a child plays alone.		
Spectator/onlooker play	2 years	a child watches other children play but does not play with them.	Adult-initiated play: adult puts out resources and toys that prompt children to play in a certain way potential benefits – encourages children to try playing in new ways and develop new skills, more effective for promoting independent learning skills potential disadvantages – children may not learn increased opportunities for the development of social skills potential disadvantages – a child may focus on one area of learning development repeatedly, ignoring others, expected skill or concept.	Explaining and demonstrating how equipment and resources work.
Parallel play	2+ years	a child plays alongside or near others but does not play with them.		Adapting activities to suit personal interests.
Associative play	3–4 years	a child starts to interact with others during play but there is not a large amount of interaction.		Choosing equipment and resources that motivate children to engage – promote exploring, encourage questioning, set challenges, allow sufficient time for activities.
Cooperative Play	4+ years	a child interacts fully with others and has interest in both the activity and other children involved.	Child-initiated play: children choose resources and how to play with them potential benefits – children can develop their own ideas more freely, learning may be limited without an adult to expand on learning opportunities.	Modelling communication – use of language.
				Joining in with play activities – promoting sharing, facilitating turn taking and sharing equipment and resources.
				Awareness of health and safety – toys and resources are age appropriate and used appropriately by the child.

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Stages of children’s play			How play can be organised to promote learning: Adult-led play		The role of adults in promoting learning through play	
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