

From: Foi Enquiries

Sent: 25 September 2019 12:45

Subject: FOI-19-1174 - Play Pedagogy

Thank you for your information request of 28 August 2019. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested. Our response is now detailed below.

Can you please be more specific, what particular approaches of play based pedagogy do schools in your local authority use?

For your reference please see examples below:

Examples of different interpretations/approaches of play based pedagogy in P1:

- 1. play-based pedagogy in P1: it allows children to be self-directed in their interests and learning with teachers interacting with pupils as they play asking questions to stretch/challenge them/get them to explain what they are doing etc**
- 2. a half hour of 'soft start' with teacher directed activities counts as play pedagogy**
- 3. a 'soft start' in the mornings in P1 and lots of variety in how they investigate sounds/numbers/topics etc but the general approach is a fairly traditional classroom style**
- 4. there are different zones around the classroom and for most of the day pupils get to choose which zones they play at e.g. construction, craft, etc. they have a few targets they are issued (literacy and numeracy related) and they choose when to do these during the day themselves**
- 5. pupils do homework if they choose and the teacher supports this, they don't have identified desks**
- 6. don't have "desks", it's all station based like Nursery was, pupils will obviously do literacy and numeracy tasks but in an activity rather than just being taught**
- 7. pupils have almost 90 minutes of absolutely free choice child initiated play every day, then they have some structured literacy and numeracy time with 'active learning'**
- 8. pupils have stations not desks, they do have some teaching time in a small group, and no homework as such**
- 9. other Education Scotland have published advice on Play based approaches available at: <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/le...>**

Play-based pedagogy has traditionally been one of the approaches used in the education of young children in Scotland. This was endorsed with the introduction of Curriculum for Excellence (Building the Curriculum 2 – Active learning in the early years and Building the Curriculum 3 – A framework for learning and teaching) which empowers teachers and practitioners to select use developmentally appropriate pedagogical approaches to meet the needs of their pupils.

In June 2013 the Scottish Government published the first National Strategy for Play. Within that document play is defined as encompassing "children's behaviour which is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. It is performed for no external goal or reward and is a fundamental and integral part of healthy development which seeks to improve play experiences for all children."

All of the above examples would apply. Schools apply different approaches depending upon the needs of their children.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST

We handled your request for information in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under FOISA.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,



Tomina Egbuson | Access to Information Officer

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