

OPAL

Newsletter



JANUARY 2026

"A child has the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities"
Article 31



Earlier this month, we welcomed Mrs Kaur to the Langtoft team as our new Opal Play Leader. Mrs Kaur has been busy meeting with the Opal Play Leaders from each class to gather their ideas on how to extend our play provision and they are working together to plan our fundraising event and community day for next term.

Mrs Kaur is also keen to hear your ideas, so please do get in touch at enquiries@langtoft.incs.sch.uk



Spring term plans

The children have requested we develop a quiet, calm area as part of our Opal provision so we will be converting the outdoor gazebo into our new *chill out zone*. To do this, we are on the hunt for carpet off cuts/rugs, beanbags and cushions and fairy lights to make it cozy plus a small bookcase where we can put a selection of books, wordsearches, dot-to-dot, mindful colouring, fiddles/fidgets, loom bands etc. Please see our loose parts collection poster.



This week's loose parts collection...



cushions



beanbags



carpet off cuts



loom bands



rugs



fairy lights

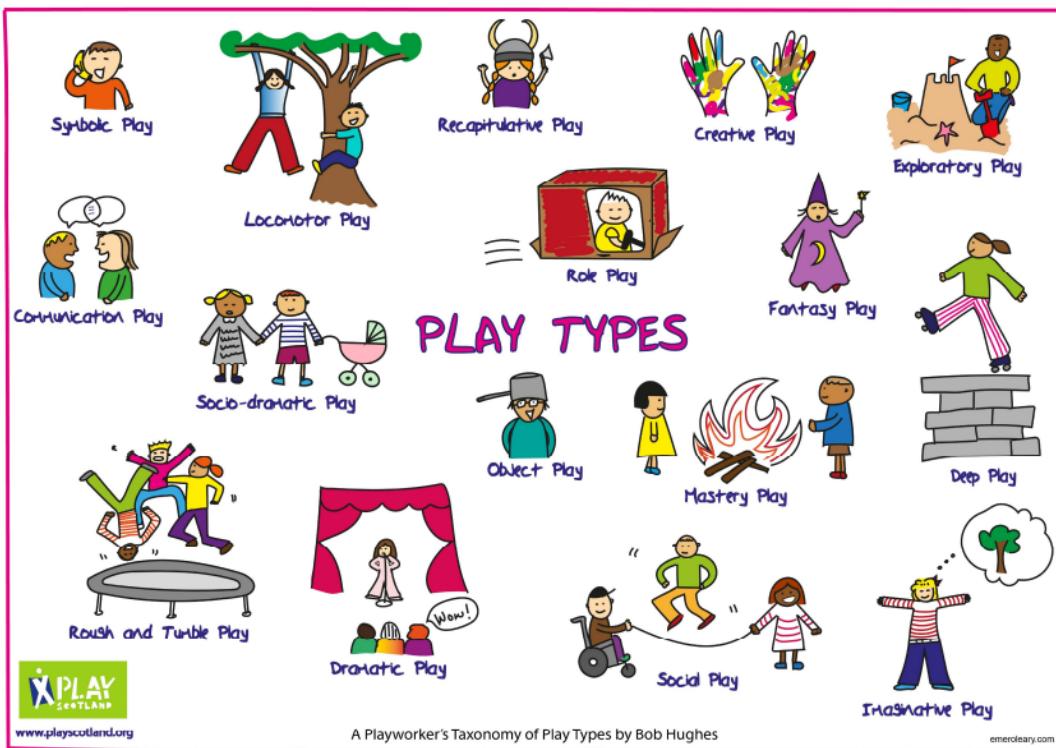


wordsearch/
Sudoku books



For our new
Chill Out Area





Play Types

There are acknowledged to be a number of different play types which provides everyone with a common language for describing play, and which we endeavour to cater for by providing a variety of natural and man-made resources to allow the children to be inspired and creative at playtimes.

- ◆ **Locomotor play:** running, jumping and other physical movements.
- ◆ **Creative play:** engaging in activities like art, music and building.
- ◆ **Exploratory play:** discovering and investigating the environment.
- ◆ **Rough and tumble play:** physical play with touching, tickling and gauging strength.
- ◆ **Imaginative play:** role-playing, acting out scenarios and using imagination.
- ◆ **Social play:** interacting with peers, collaborating and building relationships.
- ◆ **Symbolic play:** using objects and actions to represent something else.
- ◆ **Mastery play:** focusing on a specific skill or activity and becoming proficient in it.
- ◆ **Object play:** manipulating and using objects in different ways.
- ◆ **Deep play:** engaging in activities that require a significant amount of focus and concentration.
- ◆ **Communication play:** developing language skills through play.
- ◆ **Dramatic play:** acting out stories and scenarios.
- ◆ **Socio-dramatic play:** social interactions within a play context.
- ◆ **Recapitulative play:** repeating and refining play activities.

You can watch a video from OPAL here:

Amazing play, every day, for every child



