

Manchester Local Care Organisation

Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service

Advice for Parents and Carers:

Children's Play and Communication

What is Play?

Play is doing something just for fun, with no goal.

Children everywhere in the world play.

Children play in different ways.

Every child should be allowed to play.

Some play might seem strange or boring to adults, but children enjoy it.

Why is Play Important?

The main reason children play is to have fun.

But play is also very important for learning too.

When children play, they learn about the world around them. They learn by seeing, hearing, and feeling.

Playing makes children feel safe and happy. It helps them learn new skills.

Play helps children learn to talk and to be with others.

There is no right or wrong way to play. Playing helps children practice and get better at skills.

Later, they will use these skills in real life.

Skills that children learn by playing

Children learn different skills by playing. These skills support their communication and talking.

Here are some important skills children learn through play.

Cause and effect – learning that if you do something, something else happens. (For example, pressing a button makes a toy pop up.)

Taking turns – learning to take their turn (e.g., throwing a ball or adding a brick to a tower).

Pretend play – using imagination (e.g., pretending a stick is a sword).

Social connection – learning how to be with others and connect with them through play.

Play is not just about having fun— it helps children learn important skills.