

# PLAY IN LOCKDOWN

Creating enabling play environments at home



**Recycling;** displayed and grouped, entices, whilst still being open ended.



**Small world;** categories of animals in different bowls and astro turf. So much narrative play happens with small world.

**Q: How can children keep learning whilst you still get on with other things?!**

**A: They can play.** If a child is focussed, excited, engaged, concentrating or motivated, then brain connections ARE happening.

## Independent play:

- Find open ended resources
- Playfully arrange but don't direct
- Less is usually more
- Do not take over

One of the challenges with Pinterest or Twinkl ideas is that the activities are often outcome specific and that means adults feel they need to be there to guide, to do it 'right' and keep it all neat.

In Early Years we spend a lot of time organising and planning our environments because we spend a lot of time playing! We aim for a **calm yet inspiring play space**, which allows for a myriad of **independent** creative responses. The children love it and before you know it, most resources are being used!



**Choose it, use it, put it away**



**Real or natural open ended objects are so fun**



**Various play levels: floor/ tummy; kneeling/low table; standing (minimise chair use)**

## So how can you do this at home?

### Top Tips

- **Try toy rotation.** Put away half of their toys and arrange the rest attractively so that children can access them and no doubt rediscover them. Click [here](#) if interested in a detailed approach.
- **Set up** a different set of toys each day on a surface or floor space without telling them.
- **Combine** different resources together to spark imagination e.g. Lego and train track.
- **Equipment.** Sellotape, scissors, glue, hole punches etc give hours of fun. Again, arranging them on a surface will make the child notice.

**Ways to keep them going:**

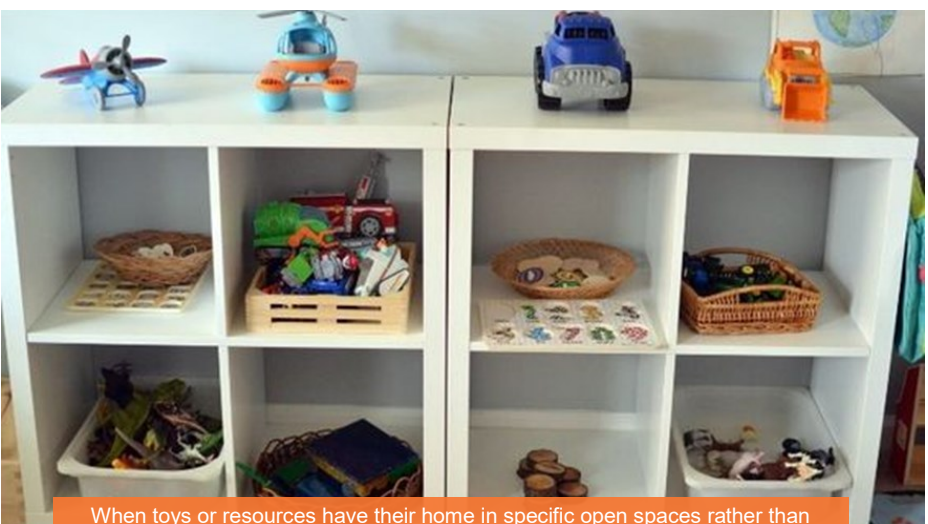
*"I wonder what would happen if..."*

*"Could you try..."*

*"I bet you could..."*

*"Tell me more..."*

**Set a challenge** *"Could you get the ball from the table to..."*



When toys or resources have their home in specific open spaces rather than closed boxes, children can see them and also put them back easily.