

*"Play is the highest form of research."*

Albert Einstein

*"You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation."*

Plato

*"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."*

Benjamin Franklin

*"Play is our brain's favourite way of learning."*

Diane Ackerman



Castlehill—a community of learners

We continue to use Curriculum for Excellence to plan meaningful and relevant learning experiences and to ensure appropriate pace of learning and progress for every child. We use a range of formal and informal assessments and observations to gather assessment data.

## Castlehill Primary School

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East Dunbartonshire Council



# Castlehill Primary School

**Play2Learn**  
in Primary 1  
and Primary 2



## Learning Through Play

Play is important for the early stages of brain development and no matter what age we are, play helps to develop key skills for learning, life and work.

Through play, children and young people of all ages develop problem-solving skills, imagination and creativity, language and observation skills, and memory and concentration.

Child led, or 'free' play is what happens when children follow their own ideas and interests in their own way, and for their own reasons.

Examples of free play opportunities are:

- Sand/water/sensory play
- Imaginative role play
- Loose parts play
- Outdoor play
- Construction
- Creative play



## Play in Primary 1

In Primary 1, the children will experience a range of ADULT-LED, ADULT-INITIATED and CHILD-LED learning opportunities.

The balance of these experiences will vary from day to day and will be more weighted towards child-led learning at the start of the school year. This allows the teachers to observe the children and gather information about their prior learning and the skills they have developed. The teachers will use this information to plan a range of adult-led and adult-initiated activities which may involve the whole class, groups or individuals.

Adult-led activities (teacher time) will be short and focused, ensuring that the children are not sitting for too long without being actively involved.

Adult-initiated activities (targets and tasks) will be guided by the teacher but the children may complete these independently. The children can choose when to complete their targets and tasks and when to access child-led learning.

Child-led learning will be accessible every day. This is how the children will learn when they are not working with their teacher or completing a specific task or target.

## Play in Primary 2

Once the children move into Primary 2, the balance of adult-led, adult-initiated and child-led learning will change to provide more structure at this stage. The children will still have opportunities for child-led play, but these will be at set times decided by the teacher.

Adult-led activities (teacher time) will continue to be short and focused, ensuring that the children are not sitting for too long without being actively involved. The children will be expected to retain more information.

Adult-initiated activities will involve an increased amount of written work - this may be in jotters or workbooks or on worksheets. The children will be expected to complete these within a set time decided by their teacher. There will also be a range of structured 'play' activities such as maths and literacy games and ICT opportunities.

The children will have opportunities for child-led learning at certain times. This will be at the discretion of the teacher and may be at the start or end of the day, or when the children have completed their tasks.