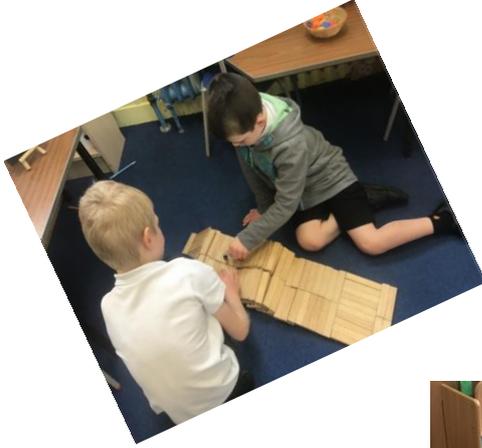




Ratray Primary School



Play from Early to First Level Curriculum Design Guide for Parents/Carers

"What we do and why?"

S.Russell, updated June 2020

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE)

Curriculum for Excellence is about bringing life to learning and learning to life. It has been introduced to raise standards of learning and teaching and help to improve our children's life chances. It brings real life into the classroom and takes lessons beyond the classroom. It promises to support children in every way possible so that they can fulfil their potential and make the most of their opportunities.

Curriculum for Excellence encourages child-led creativity in the classroom. It promotes critical challenge and questioning. It really makes teachers think about how they teach, recognising that we all learn in different ways and presenting lessons in ways that suit the learning styles of the children.

Working together to share ideas, opinions and develop our vocabulary.

We are developing our reading skills in lots of different ways, not only with reading books.

First hand experiences and experiments create a sense of wonder.



A research-based approach

At Rattray Primary school we have adopted a more creative approach to teaching and learning. This provides children with more opportunities to learn through play and first-hand experiences. These experiences help children to develop confidence in themselves as learners and build the necessary skills required to access the curriculum. We are also focusing on improving the children's vocabulary, which also supports children with both their reading and writing.

There has been lots of research carried out in Scotland in the last few years highlighting a gap in young children's vocabulary and enjoyment of reading. While we have made good progress in helping children read well in recent years, we are working extremely hard to ensure that literacy skills are developed throughout all areas of the curriculum and children are equipped with the skills that they require as they progress through primary.

“Scientists have recently determined that it takes approximately 400 repetitions to create a new synapse in the brain – unless it is done with play, in which case, it takes between 10-20 repetitions.”

Dr. Karyn Purvis

Active Learning with Curriculum for Excellence doesn't mean children are actively running around. It is learning that engages children and challenges their thinking.

Motivated children, who are actively engaged with tasks that have a clear purpose, will retain and learn more, and will be more likely to transfer the knowledge and apply it in different situations.

Right from the onset, young children will be partners in the learning process; actively participating in the planning, shaping and directing of their own learning.

Through play, children can: -

- Work in partnership with others
- Express themselves
- Build their independence
- Make sense of their experiences
- Manipulate materials
- Test out new knowledge
- Develop new skills
- Make choices and decisions
- Solve problems
- Reduce stress - play helps children grow emotionally. It is joyful and provides an outlet for anxiety and stress.

