Section 1

How creative and social play can be supported in practice.

According to the website nicurriculum.org, here are some ways which best support creative and social play. Art and craft, music, storytelling, role play and movement, dance drama, early mathematical experiences, science and technology and language and literacy activities.

As well as the above, here are some other examples of social play activities which can be used. keeping the classroom tidy, turning lights off, watering plants, delivering the register to the office, sharpening pencils, keeping track of timed activities, give the children the opportunity to be in charge. That is according to the website prodidgygame.com,

Aspects of good practice are a rich learning indoor and outdoor environment, containing stimulating influences. A rich variety of materials should be available and easily accessible for the children to access. Children should be given the opportunity to choose from a wide variety of materials and resources and develop their own creations and ideas. By the children having these opportunities it will encourage them to have more interesting and individual ideas. Here are some examples of resources which will be beneficial for the children's learning and development are, mirrors, which can offer different perspectives for example, they will be able to se their own reflections, facial expressions and make portraits' light table which can be used to explore colours and shade. Projectors and cameras. That is according to the website nicurriculum.org.

The outdoor environment facilitates children's creativity, as they will be given the opportunity to think about the outdoors and the world around them. The outdoor environment is a good source of colours and texture. By the children having these opportunities and experiences, it can help with their personal, social, emotional, physical and creative development. This is also according to the website nicurriculum.org.

What is creative play?

According to Bruce, (2011) creative play helps children to make connections in their learning. It helps them to bring together what they know in a connected way. Play helps children to be led forward actively in their learning.

Creativity is the process by which children turn images into creations. When they are doing role play, they try different ideas such as, feelings and relationship or pretend play, make props for play and look for things around them to see what things they can use for role play and this will help them to make connections in their mind. (Bruce,2011)

Other ways in which they might be creative is to, make constructions, such as using blocks, telling stories, painting, music and dance and make models using a variety of materials for example, clay leaves and sticks (Bruce,2011)

According to Bruce (,2011) As adults we sometimes lead activities, but it is important the children are given opportunities to lead play because this will help them with their future

learning and they will understand and bring meaning to play and they will be easier to teach because they will bring meaning to their learning and it will help them to understand.

According to the website Vygotsky on collective creativity, creativity happens from any human activity that produces something new. Creative play could consist of any physical objects from music to construction. Creativity is present when major artistic, scientific and technical discoveries are made. It is also existent whenever an individual changes, combines, images or makes something new. Like Simon Nicholson's 'theory of loose parts', Vygotsky believed that creativity is something that exists in all people, as well as very young children. Imagination was also considered to be a fundamental part of creativity through its ability to support the production of new combinations of pre-constructed things.

Piaget`s theory on creative play is an interactive one.in He states 4 basis of all actions such as, interaction, environment, invention and growth. According to Piaget states his theory behind creative thinking, developed from his dialect notions of assimilation and accommodation and this interaction is vital. Children and adults have logical and creative thinking which deal with a reality of thinking and that is according to the website Piaget's theory in the development of creative thinking.

What is social play?

According to the website alleydog.com, social play is when children of the same age interact with each other. There are normally rules to follow with this type of play. Which is known as structured play. Elements of this type of play will involve imaginative and pretend play and here are some examples of social play, playing team games such as what is the time Mr Wolf or 2 children playing in a den or in a play house.

Social play in early years education plays an important part as it helps with children's learning and communication. There are different ways of communicating from a young age, such as peek a boo, imitation, smiling and cooing. Children then learn to play and share toys and all of these are a part of social play. That is according to the website nhsggc.org.uk.

According to the website encourage play.com, here are some examples of how to put social play into practice. Try fun group activities. Board games are one of the best ways to work on social skills. Playing a game requires taking turns, learning to share, ticking to the rules. negotiating and being a good sport.

Ways which the adult can help with the child's social learning. Some suggested activities such as group discussions are good for social and communication. Give each child the chance to talk about their favourite television programme, go on a treasure hunt and work on cooperation, get them to make something and practice following instructions, use props to teach about flexibility, use books and construction and get them to decode secret messages and talk about hidden rules. That is according to the website encourageplay.com.

According to the website empoweredparents.co, holistic development is important. Part of a child's development and learning, in order for them to reach their full potential in all aspects. The following skills are an important part and should be the main focus during the early years. These are, emotional intelligence, social ability, responsibility, creativity, confidence, fine gross motor coordination and compassion.

Section 2

The importance of why children chose their own play.

According to the website familylives.org, the importance for the child to choose their own play, is because it is fun, they become absorbed in what they are doing, play is an important part of a child's development and it is an integral part of the early years foundation stage which helps support their learning. Play is a powerful thing and children can learn many skills whilst doing so. Play is one of the main ways in which children learn and develop. It helps to build self-worth by giving a child a sense of his or her own abilities and to feel good about themselves.

Here are some key points and ideas of activities that the child could do for child lead learning.

Role play games can help your child make sense of the world, aid in their emotional and physical development.

Learning through play is important and can help young children be ready for school, encourage their imagination and help them with literacy and numeracy skills.

Outdoor play and nature are beneficial to your child as they learn about the world around them and helps their sensory needs too and these key points are according to familylives.org.

According to the website earlyyearscareers.com, child led play supports children in having ideas and being in control of their learning. It enables them to learn through first-hand experiences, allowing them to choose how to use the resources to do so. Child-led activities may start out as an adult initiated activity however by allowing the child space and time; the child may extend the resources and ideas given to create their own experience. It is important to strike a balance between adult led and child-initiated activities to meet best the children's outcomes.

According to Montessori child led teaching gives the children the freedom to choose the activities that they want to do. By the children being able to make their own choices, it helps the child to learn and develop at their own pace. It also helps with their lifelong learning, self-esteem, helps with independence and helps with confidence.

Montessori also states that the holistic approach aims to develop the child's imagination, physical, social and emotional and cognitive development.

What is self-directed play?

According to the website playadventures.org, Self-Directed Play is the concept which allows children to play freely without an imposed framework, and without the adult getting involved or giving instructions. It is defined by play that is: Freely Chosen - by determining and controlling the content and intent of their play Personally Directed- by following their own instincts, ideas and interests.

Froebl states, that children should be given the opportunity to play in the way that they want to every day, because children are individual and will learn at their own pace. He suggests it

should be up to the child to decide what activities they would like to do, as this is how the child learns best. That is according to the website healthresearchfunding.org.

According to the blog Holli Montessori, it states that Self-directed play lets them experience independence from a young age, all while in a safe, prepared environment. It stimulates imagination. Children can't help but be creative during self-directed play.

How the adult can support directed play.

According to Aistear: The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework's "Learning and developing through play" looks at the following three stages of how an adult can best support play. These are planning play, which involves the adult, making sure that it is the appropriate environment for the child to play, making it fun and helping the child to learn and grow. The adult should provide a wide range of choices for the children, so they have got the opportunity and freedom to make their own choices, which will help them to build on their interests, experiences and abilities.

Providing choices to help children become more independent and successful, it is important to have a good structured environment, (both indoors and outdoors) which will play a big part in the child's development.

Building and extending. Setting Children challenges is good for their knowledge and understanding. Providing children with different materials, opportunities and experiences, helps them to expand on their current knowledge.

Supporting play. The best way to support the child is to get to know them and learn about them. This can be done through, playing and engaging and talking with the child and take into account their decision. The adult should recognise their efforts, give them the opportunity make new connections and this can be done through modelling. Prevent problems that might occur, by being actively involved in play. Give the children opportunities to problem solve and only intervene if necessary. Also, some children will need help in engaging in activities. By the adult interacting in play, it can build a Childs confidence and finally the adult needs to reflect observing, critical thinking, checking in with the child, and they will know which is the best way to move forward with planning and targets and that is according to the website **The power of play – Part 5: Adult roles in child's play.**

Section 3

Why we use observation in children's play.

According to the Welsh government foundation phase handbook, observation is an important part of daily practice in the foundation phase. The main reasons for observing children are for learning outcomes and for the adult to understand the child and know where they are at with their development, so they are able to plan and set targets for the child and their development and helps with their learning.

According to the gov Wales website. The foundation phase document states, observation should be a daily part of the role of the adult, and it should form a part of assessment procedure in s all schools and early years settings.

Research shows that the benefits of observation in the foundation phase include, the development of numeracy skills, positive attitude towards learning, the development of language, literacy and communication skills, self-motivation and independence, the ability to make mistakes without fear of failure, being able to think and problem solve, development of confidence and the ability to express themselves through music, dance and art. That is according to the website Monmouthshire.gov.

The foundation phase is built on principles of learning through play. It is a vital part of educational development for all children. It helps children to make sense of the world. There are a variety of activities which support the foundation phase curriculum, for example, construction play, exploratory play, role play, imaginative play and creative play and that is according to the website monmouthshire.gov.

According to practical pre-school books, assessment is about tracking children's progress and from this, it helps to reflect on all areas of learning. The two main factors to take into account while observing are, formative and summative. In the DCFS document progress matters, the process of assessment is described as, gathering information - information on children's learning and development, using- information to support children's learning and development, summarising-information to track children's progress and using summary information- to support children's progress. Formative assessment is about assessing the child over a period of time and summative assessment is about looking at the formative assessments over a longer period of time and identifying and reflecting where the child is at developmentally and where they need to go next.

Froebl states that observation is used to when we talk to parents, professionals, carers and colleagues about the child's development, giving them examples their play and learning. Observations can be used for assessment and planning and it informs us what stage of development the child is at. The learning environment plays an important part of a child's education and it is relevant to the curriculum frameworks. That is according to the website Froebl.org. Observing children.

Play helps children to make good use of their learning, which will help them to learn and develop more. It is important that the adult observe, plans, supports and encourages play, as it is a powerful way to help children learn in childhood. (Bruce,2011)

According to Montessori the role of the adult in observation is to encourage and try not intervene, as it gives the child the opportunity to see what they would do and how they respond. If a drink spilled and there are no safety issues, the adult should not rush over straight away, the adult should observe at first, as it will be a good opportunity for the child to problem solve and some children may already know how to deal with it and that can encourage independent skills. That is according to the website Montessri- philosophy and curriculum.

The environment plays an important part in observation because if children feel happy, relaxed and comfortable it will be beneficial to their learning. Children tend to explore their environment more if they feel secure in their surroundings. There are three aspects to the learning environment. They are, emotional environments and indoor and outdoor environments. The emotional environment is more than just a physical space. It is somewhere where children spend time with professionals and it is where their parents/carers leave them

on a daily basis. Maintaining positive feelings is important for staff, children and parents, but equally if they feel safe in the emotional environment children can express their feelings safely, knowing that their parents or staff are nearby to help them if they need it. Allowing children to talk will help them to overcome any worries or concerns they have. Rich environments have a positive impact on a child's learning. The indoor environment should be warm, welcoming, clean and safe. It should have a wide variety of resources, such as building blocks, dressing up clothes, dolls, colouring pencils and toy cars, which should be easily accessible. There are a lot of benefits with the outdoor environment for children. They need space and freedom, and the outdoors gives them good opportunities to learn and explore, plus it helps with physical, social, emotional and cognitive development. Resources do not need to cost a lot and being outdoors can help with a child's imagination. That is according to the website earlyyearsmatters.

Section 4

The role of the adult in observation during play.

According to the website study.com, play is a very important part of a child's development. It can have a significant impact on a child's mental health, emotional and social development, language development, fine motor skills, creativity and brain growth.

First of all, it is important that the practitioners know and understand observation and the reason why it is done. Observation during children's play is about sitting back and observing. Some settings follow the look, listen and note rule. It is the practitioner's role that observations are carried out by all staff, because that is how they gather their information about the child and what level they are at and what to put in place to move forward for the child's development. That is according to the website earlyyearscareers.

There are many reasons why we observe children's play,here are some examples, to find out about the child and or group of children, to find out how children's skills are developing, evaluate provision, find out children's friendship and patterns, observe a child's language development ,monitor practitioners practice, observe interactions between children and adults, evaluate the effectiveness of room routine and to find out how children respond to certain activities and that is according to the website earlyyearscarrers.

According to the website effective practice: Observation ,assessment and planning. The role of the adult is to observe children on a regular basis, throughout the day, and all staff should be involved. Decisions about a child's needs should not be based on just one observation. Observation should happen on a daily basis. There should be regular discussions taking place to consider what has been learned to help you plan for the child's development and learning. Any concerns should always be discussed with parents and colleagues to identify whether intervention may be required.

According to the website childrensscrapstore, the play cycle is used by professionals to understand and observe play. There are Severn parts to the play cycle, they are, play drive: this means, the instinctive desire to play, the *child wanting to shoot someone with his water bottle on a hot day.*

Play Cue: From this drive the child may produce an action which can be very subtle or very obvious: *Creating eye contact with a girl to initiate a game of let me chase and shoot.* **Play Return:** The feedback a child receives from a play cue is called a play return. *The child maintaining eye contact then turning running away screaming. Play* **Flow:** This is established once the play has commenced, and is a continuation of cues and returns. It can last a few seconds or several weeks: *Both children running around the playground in a chase and shoot scenario. Play* **Frame:** The process of play is 'contained' by the play frame. The play frame can be a material boundary that keeps the play intact; the rules of the game or understanding between the participants. A frame can be many things – a table, a playground or something broader: *The playground with lots of people/obstacles provided the 'frame' in this instance.* **Play Annihilation:** When the flow of play is terminated by children. This can be the end of the game or perhaps the destruction of a recently constructed model: *The girl annihilated the play frame in this instance as she was clearly not enjoying the frame she had engaged in and was quite distressed* **Play Adulteration:** If an adult intervenes and tries to lead or force it, they will be denying the play drive purpose and adulterating the child play: *The girl is comforted, water bottle is confiscated and boy is told off.*