



Common Play Behaviours Progression Document Burnwood - Nursery

Nursery – Small World Area

Behaviour	Imitates and represents objects as another	Represents an Environment	Creates Narrative around Play	Recalls Past Events	Resources to Facilitate Play
Extended Skill	Explains resources as what they are (e.g.: This is my car)	Create an environment they have create/imagined.	Begins to use some story language in their play such as familiar story themes.	Articulates their thoughts and feelings through narrative	Open Ended Resources - Pine cones, Rocks, Pebbles, Buttons, Lollipop Sticks, Small bits of Material, Sticks, Peg Dolls, Foliage, Mini me, Character Photos, Animals (organised into animal groups)
Developing Skill	Imitates sounds (e.g.: Vehicles and Animals)	Represent/Create environments from stories	Begins to use some story language in their play such as familiar lines from stories.	Re-enacts their own experience through a narrative.	Characters from familiar stories, Doll's house and house furniture, Mini me, Character photos, Animals
Emerging Skill	Represents objects as what they are	Represents an environment they are familiar with.	Shows their actions in small world play (e.g.: Shows a man is walking)	Re-enacts elements of their own experiences through a narrative.	Artificial grass, Coloured fabric, Cars, Vehicles, Figures from stories/ TV/ movies, Fairy-tale Characters, Animals

Nursery – Construction Area

Behaviour	Creates a Structure	Special Awareness	Constructs with a purpose in mind	Resources to Facilitate Play
Extended Skills	Uses resources to construct buildings	Select appropriately sized blocks/construction needed for a chosen workspace.	Knows what they want to build when they begin to construct.	Small blocks, Kapla, Meccano, Nuts and Bolts, Handles, Wheels and Axels, Knex, Squared paper/design sheets
Developing Skill	Positions resources both vertically and horizontally.	Connects buildings and structures (e.g.: putting a road between buildings) Select the appropriately sized blocks/construction resources for their chosen purpose.	Has an idea about what they will build before they begin.	Lego, Mobilo, Small blocks, Large Blocks, Coloured blocks, Kapla, Squared paper
Emerging Skill	Uses resources to build towers. Builds vertical models	Constructs in a large space with large blocks Constructs in a small space with small blocks	Selects resources as they go.	Duplo, Stickle bricks, Mobilo, Small blocks, Large blocks

Nursery– Role Play Area

Behaviour	Express Emotions and Feelings	Acts in a Role	Creates Narrative around Play	Recalls Past Events	Resources to Facilitate Play
Extended Skills	Expresses some emotions through role play	Dresses in different outfits to become different characters.	Describes what they are doing in their role play.	Begins to add their own feelings through narrative.	Material, Scarves, Cloaks Hats, Bags, Purses, Jewellery
Developing Skill	Pretends to cry in role	Acts out common scenarios.	Explains their actions in role play.	Begins to add their own thoughts through narrative.	Till and Coins, Selection of play food, Household objects, Role play outfits, Babies and Baby clothes
Emerging Skill	Laughs and smiles in role	Plays in role as themselves in situations that are within their experience.	Talks about their actions in role play.	Begins to re-enact their experiences through a narrative.	Selection of play food, Household objects - e.g.: - Brush and dustpan, pots and pans, bowls, plates etc. Role play outfits - e.g.: - Hi vis jackets, police outfit, nurse outfit etc.

Nursery – Malleable Area

Behaviour	Rolling	Moulding	Cutting	Shaping	Resources to facilitate play
Extended Skill	Uses rolling pin to roll dough/clay and flatten dough with necessary pressure.	Uses hands to flatten, squash, bend, twist and stretch dough with necessary pressure.	Uses cutters to cut out shapes in dough/clay.	Rolls dough in hands to shape it.	Modelling clay, Clay and clay tools, Clay boards, Water - (to be used to shape and mould clay) Lollipop sticks
Developing Skill	Begins to flatten dough with necessary pressure.	Uses hands to flatten dough/clay.	Tears dough/clay with fingers.	Smooths dough in hands/fingers to shape it.	Extruders with patterned ends, Metal trays and tins in different sizes
Emerging Skill	Begins to use a rolling pin to roll dough/clay.	Uses hands to squash, bend, twist and stretch dough/clay.	Splits up dough using hands.	Squashes dough with hands and fingers to shape it.	Play Dough, Muffin Tins, Metal Trays, Cookie Cutters, Rolling Pins, Dough Stampers, Bowls and Dishes

Nursery – Workshop Area

Behaviour	Cutting	Fixing/Joining	Stick/Collage	Resources to facilitate play
Extended Skill	Uses scissors with two hands to cut a piece of paper	Beginning to explore techniques to join thicker materials	Able to use glue to fasten paper/thin resources together	Scissors, Hole punch, Sello-tape, Masking tape, Paper clips, Treasury tags, Glue/ PVA glue, Range of paper/card, Lollipop sticks, Match Sticks, Pom Poms, Feathers, Sequins, Buttons
Developing Skill	Tears materials to make them the desired size/shape	Fastens paper and card together with success	Uses glue to attempt to stick but it may not be secure	Scissors, Sello-tape, Masking tape, Large and small boxes, Thick and Thin Card, Paper, Tissue Paper, Crepe Paper, Bottles, Tubes, PVA glue, Glue Sticks, Lollipop Sticks, Match Sticks, Pom Poms, Feathers, Sequins, Beads, Buttons
Emerging Skill	Begins to make snips in paper	Begins to explore fastening resources together using available resources	Sticks objects randomly onto paper/card	Masking tape, PVA glue, Card Paper, Tissue Paper, Crepe Paper, Boxes, Tubes, Lollipop Sticks, Match Sticks, Pom Poms, Feathers

Painting Area – Nursery

Behaviour	Mixing	Printing	Mark Making/Painting	Resources to facilitate play
Extended Skill	Explore the properties of colours as they mix	Explores printing with different objects.	Uses horizontal and vertical brush strokes to paint Gives meaning to the marks they make	Mixing cards, Paint sample cards, Different sized paint brushes, Range of paper, Choice of working horizontally or vertically (easel or table top), Artwork examples from artists
Developing Skill	Experiments with colour mixing but no intention to mix a certain colour	Prints randomly on paper.	Paints in random directions	Different sized paint brushes, Powder paint, Poster paint, Mixing cards, Water Palettes, Range of paper
Emerging Skill	Experiments using a range of different paints	Puts printing tool into paint then prints on paper.	Covers the paper in paint	Paint brushes, Poster paint, Water Palettes

Sand Area – Nursery

Behaviour	Dig	Mould	Sieve	Bury/Enclose	Resources to Facilitate Play
Extended Skill	Scoops sand up using scoop/spade Moves sand from A to B using a spade	Free play with hands – makes shapes, heaps and tunnels	Recognises that dry sand falls freely through fingers/sieve	Uses hands to cover up objects	Potato mashers, Colander, Kitchen utensils, Different sized containers, Sieves with small holes/large holes
Developing Skill	Explores moving sand using spade/scoops	Fills containers/buckets with sand Pats down sand to make it smooth	Explores and observes the way sand moves through sieve	Free play with hands	Ice cube moulds, Irregular shaped moulds, Different sized sieves, Different sized buckets, containers, Short-handled scoops/spades
Emerging Skill	Lifts sand in hands and places back down Digs using hands	Makes impressions using hands, fingers, knees, arms	Sifts sand through fingers	Covers their hands and fingers in sand	Different shaped moulds, Buckets, Spades, Scoops - long and short handled, Sieves

Water Area – Nursery

Behaviour	Pouring	Filling	Transporting	Mixing	Resources to Facilitate Play
Extended Skill	Observes as they pour water from container to container. Observes the way water moves.	Fills containers with a desired amount.	Tries to catch water as it is transported.	Mixes slowly as not to spill. Increased control when mixing.	Spoons with slots and holes in, Measuring spoons, Different sized spoons, Jugs with spouts, Jugs with handles, Piping, Pipettes, Basters
Developing Skill	Tips to pour quickly.	Fills containers until they overflow.	Explores the way water moves and is transported.	Explores the way water moves as they mix and stir it.	Different sized containers, Pots and pans, Colanders, Kitchen utensils, Natural materials, Funnels, Some transparent containers, Whisks,

Emerging Skill	Drops objects into the water.	Randomly fills different containers.	Carries water from A to B but spills large amounts of water along the way.	Spills some water when mixing	Different sized beakers, Different sized containers, Irregular shaped containers, Buckets, Water wheel
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Science Area – Nursery

Behaviour	Observe	Investigate/Experiment	Test	Resources to Facilitate Play
Extended Skill	Asks questions about what they have observed	Explores cause and effect	Begins to independently explore cause and effect but changes a variable (e.g.: - Floating and sinking - will it float if there is more water?)	Sorting trays, Collecting pots, Cameras, Notebooks, Notepads, Clipboards
Developing Skill	Comments on what they can see	Begins to ask question about cause and effect	Will explore cause and effect with a trusted group of peers/practitioner.	Mirrors, Pull/push toys, Range of materials, Range of objects, Springs, Spinners, Timers, Magnets
Emerging Skill	Observes the immediate world around them	Observes cause and effect	Will take guidance on observing cause and effect from a trusted practitioner.	Goggles, Magnifying Glasses, Binoculars, Range of materials, Range of interesting objects

Mud Kitchen – Nursery

Behaviour	Concoct/Imagine	Problem Solve	Actions	Purpose	Resources to Facilitate Play
Extended Skill	Create familiar everyday meals - Pies, Cake, Soup	Will observe peers and learn from what they are doing	Scooping Stirring Pouring	Can follow a recipe that use pictorial representations	Recipes Ladles Whisks Moulds Pestle and mortar Masher Measuring cups/spoons Measuring jugs/scales Sieve
Developing Skill	Will explore and create using a range of interesting materials.	Begin to explore how new resources work and incorporates them into play	Patting/smoothing Adding Emptying Filling	With support can talk about what they are making and name ingredients that they are using	Recipes (pictorial) Scoops Wooden spoons Bowls Metal spoons Plastic spoons Plastic knives Herbs Vegetables/fruit
Emerging Skill	Will observe using a range of materials to create	Asks for help with new equipment	Picking Chop Splatting	Explores combining resources	Mud Saucepans Bowls

	something from their imagination.		Splashing		Big spoons Water
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Writing – Nursery

Behaviour	Marks	Meaning	Pencil Grip	Purpose	Resources to Facilitate Play
Extended Skill	Understands that writing and drawing are different	Is aware that print has meaning	Palmer/whole hand grasp	Understands different forms and writing and mark makes to imitate this form of writing e.g. shopping lists	Sound mats Key words Variety of templates Notebooks
Developing Skill	Draws circles, lines and other patterns	Marks do not communicate meaning	Will pick up pencil and use it to make marks on a page.	Exploring how to make marks on paper	Name cards Whiteboards and pens Pens/pencils/crayons/chalks Variety of paper
Emerging Skill	Controls scribbles	Does not always look at paper when making marks			Chunky pencils/pens Pencil control patterns

Funky Fingers – Nursery

Behaviour	Posting (hand eye co-ordination)	Squeezing	Threading	Resources to Facilitate Play
Extended Skill	Large pegs on pegboards Scoops/spoons to put objects into containers	Popping bubble wrap Sponges to squeeze out water	Threading pasta onto string Threading pipe cleaners into colanders/plant pots/air flow balls	Pegs Pegboards Beads Pasta Ribbon Nuts and bolts
Developing Skill	Putting coins/cards in a container with a slit	Washing up liquid bottles to empty liquid out	Threading tubing (cut up toilet rolls/ kitchen rolls) onto string	Large pegs Scoops and spoons Small balls Pipettes Sponges Pegs Pasta Pipe cleaners Straws
Emerging Skill	Use of hands to post items into containers	Moulding dough into different shapes	Threading chunky beads onto pipe cleaners	Coins Posting boxes Bubble wrap Dough Chunky beads Pipe cleaners

Maths – Nursery

Behaviour	Number	Shape/Pattern	Measures	Resources to Facilitate Play
Extended Skill	Beginning to recognise some numerals	Continue a basic pattern that has been started	Can use small/ big and tall/short to describe size Explore balance scales/rulers/measuring tapes/measuring cylinders within play	Balance scales Measuring cylinders/jugs Plastic numerals Dice Different number representations
Developing Skill	Represent numbers on fingers	Can find two shapes that are the same	Direct comparison of 2 objects	Counting objects Measuring cylinders/jugs Plastic numerals Dice Different number representations
Emerging Skill	Say number names to count objects, not necessarily in the right order	Select and rotate shapes to fit in a given space	Use of some language within play	Counting objects Measuring cylinders/jugs Plastic numerals Dice

	Can use number language within play	Explore/play with shapes to build towers and make pictures		Different number representations
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