



23 February 2018

Dear Parents

A little boy comes flying out of the sandpit with a piece of fabric tied around his neck, proclaiming his intent to save the universe from mutant lizard aliens. His weapon of choice is a laser ray photon gun that looks suspiciously like a wooden kitchen spoon. His little friend, squeals with delight and toddles outside to join the fight, using her wagon as a boat to cross the raging river. Another child comes over and begins to bounce on the trampoline so as to cause an earthquake that will surely help to bring about the necessary end of these abominable aliens. Hurrah! The best part? It's exactly what a future heart surgeon or engineer or literature professor should be doing with his day.

This type of undirected and freely chosen play is called free play, and it helps develop crucial physical and mental skills in children. Not so very long ago, this type of social, physical, and mental development was the norm for children. However, its importance is, at best, undervalued in society today. In many situations, unfortunately, free play is discouraged because it is seen as time ill-spent.

In very recent years, however, the importance of free play has begun to be recognized by parents and educators alike as a vital tool in the overall development of strong, healthy, and intellectual children. The challenge now is to reincorporate what was once taken for granted. With the increase of all forms of screen time (computer, TV, video game, etc), the decrease in easily accessible outdoor play spaces, along with the decrease in the family's available free time, there is now a significant deficit in children's time to simply play.

So, why is free play so important in our kids' lives?

When kids play, they learn to run, jump, and swing. But they also learn how to negotiate and to respect one another. They learn how to think and plan without an adult telling them what to do. Kids who play also play better as adults.

Children's play has many other developmental purposes as well, which have become clearer through research in the last century. The simple act of throwing and catching a ball, for example, develops not just physical dexterity but also important cognitive skills fundamental to understanding mathematics and physics. Make-believe play, in which children pretend that one object is something else or take on different roles in a story, is the earliest form of symbolic thinking, which in turn is the basis for both language and mathematics.

Free play takes on not only social and intellectual importance, but it is also a key to raising healthier children

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 6 March PTA meeting at the Playschool 6:30pm
- 13-15 March Parent feedback/interviews
- 18 March Community celebration of Greek National Day at SAHETI
- 21 March Human rights day
- 23 March Greek national Day (school closes early)
- 29 March End of term 1

PTA AGM



This week the Pre-Primary and Playschool PTA, AGM was convened. We take the opportunity to congratulate the newly elected PTA and wish them a fruitful and fulfilling exciting fun year ahead. We look forward to working with you. Our first meeting will be held at the Playschool on 6 March at 6:30pm.

KINDERMUSIEK



This activity commence on Monday 5th March as an extra mural at school. Debbie Bloch instils in the children an appreciation of music, through some novel and interesting activities. Should you be interested please fill in and sign all documentation before returning it to your child's class teacher. The extra mural will run from 1:30pm – 2:15 pm

ANTI WASTE

Thank you to those parents who have begun to bring **empty toilet rolls**. We will continue to collect them this coming week. There will be a big box in the foyer. Please support our drive.

Next week we request newspaper please.

