



PlayPods Case Study

Castle Primary School, BANES

October 2011

Castle Primary School has had a PlayPod in the playground since May 2011.

Headteacher Kristian Hancock says:

All the staff here think the PlayPod's great. Some parents have even been adding to it, bringing extra bits and bobs of scrap to put in.

Since the PlayPod arrived, the children are coming back into class really fired up after lunch. They've clearly been having fun and using up energy so everything feels much calmer. There are a lot fewer problems to sort out and the teachers aren't left dealing with the fall-out from playtime before they can start teaching, which was often the case before. Children are coming in so much more satisfied and in better place to learn.

Playing together with such a variety of objects that can do such a variety of things, the children are building really important skills like problem solving and team work, without even realising it. And they're using communication skills all the time – working together to create things and negotiating constantly.

It might be scrap but these children are finding so many uses for it. The possibilities really are endless.

There are different crazes developing all the time. One week it'll be soldiers – making shields and swords and the next there'll be shelters and dens going up all around the playground or they're pushing chariots around. It doesn't come from us ... it's all from the children's imaginations.

The PlayPod has allowed some of the quieter children, who might not have run around and played games as much as others, to really find their niche. We just don't see children sat around on their own anymore.

We're fundraising to buy a PlayPod of our own as this one is on loan from the Children's Scrapstore. One of our 6 year old boys came up to me and gave me £3.46 towards the target!

Christine Stanley, senior school meals supervisor, says:

“The children are much happier. They’re really using their imagination through play.

“We’re not getting the same level of playground incidents and problems to deal with because they’re so well occupied.

They’re making all sorts of things from offices and shops to swings, hammocks, dens and chariots to pull each other around on.

Children of different ages are also playing together cooperatively, with little ones learning from bigger ones. They’re really working together, sharing the materials and taking it in turns.

They’re also taking risks, but calculated ones, assessing carefully the possibilities and likely outcomes of putting certain things together or climbing on them or rolling them around.