



PlayPods Case Study

Tynings Primary School, Staple Hill (Bristol) South Gloucestershire

October 2011

Tynings Primary School has had a PlayPod in the playground since February 2011.

Acting Headteacher Anna Hannam says:

“The sort of play that takes place outside is so much more varied since we’ve had the PlayPod. The children make houses, dens and all sorts. They use role play and lots of imaginative thinking.

It’s hard to measure but I certainly feel there’s been an improvement in behaviour. There are fewer incidents than there used to be and there’s less need for intervention over squabbling and silly arguments.

The children are playing more collaboratively and the variety of things they get up to is huge. They’re really inventive and they’re learning new skills all the time. When they’re building things and looking at how pieces fit together they’re dealing first hand with the laws of physics. And of course there’s a great physical side to it too – using muscles and burning up energy.

The staff are really excited about having the PlayPod too and have embraced it in a really positive way. Everyone agrees that it’s hugely improved play times.

It’s also greatly improved the adults’ attitude and knowledge of play. They’re risk assessing play but allowing the children to take more risks of their own. The number of bumps and bruises might have gone up but children are learning their own boundaries which will help keep them safer in the future.

I would wholeheartedly recommend the PlayPod ... every school should have one.”

Sue Stevens, lunchtime supervisor added:

“All the children have something fun to do at lunch times that really keeps them busy. They love dressing up – even the older ones. They build trolleys with crates and pull each other along. And whereas it used to be that the juniors didn’t play with the younger ones, now they’re all playing together. It’s a much nicer atmosphere.

Children who usually argue are playing much better together. And quieter children who might have been a bit left out on a limb aren't left on their own any more – they're all involved and busy together.

There are three girls in particular who were always arguing and fighting. They used to be trouble makers but now they're playing together really well and not getting into trouble."