

Weston Thornton Primary Academy

PlayPod introduced February 2013

Data on lunchtime incident cards

These are incidents that need following up after lunch with teachers. There has been a dramatic fall in the numbers which backs up the anecdotal evidence from the Lunchtime meals supervisors.

The Play Pod was introduced at the beginning of February 2013 but this data is from the beginning of each academic year.

Sept 2012	22	Sept 2013	5
Oct. 2012	26	Oct. 2013	2
Nov. 2012	28	Nov 2013	4

Data on number of accidents

This shows how there is an initial rise in accidents, as children are learning how to use the scrap safely, then it quickly drops to around 4/5 if that, a week. This has been very useful information to have when dealing with parent complaints.

February 2013	41
March	41 (lots of net swings being used)
April	22
May	25
June	34
July	11
Sept	9
October	7
Nov	6

The number of accidents starts high and then reduces as the use of the scrap becomes embedded. The number of accidents related to Play Pod however, even at the beginning, was small in proportion to the number of other accidents. In March, for example, PlayPod accidents equated to just 11% of the total number of accidents that month.

This information is very useful to allay the fears of over anxious parents. The fact that it is being monitored goes a long way to addressing their concerns.

PlayPod Impact Report

February 2013 (when first introduced)

- Initial concerns amongst staff – some quite reluctant to participate, some anxious regarding the dynamic risk assessments
- Playpod trainers reported we were the most risk averse school they had come across

Issues

- Large area dominated by older boys playing football
- Everything timetabled
- Too many rules imposed
- Very little independent choice or resources
- Reception children contained within the pencils area
- Lots of children in first aid or coming back into school
- Children taking lots of time to eat their lunches
- Lots of behavioural incidents impacting on teaching and learning after lunch

September 2013

- All Lunchtime staff now on board –even most reluctant can see how it benefits children
- Dynamic risk assessments really do work - children able to set own safety rules
- Lots more choice
- All ages/gender using climbing equipment safely
- Children of different ages/stages playing together
- Lots more role play particularly KS2 boys
- Football quickly reinstated but is more cross phase
- More choice - Year One child plays football daily with KS2 boys
- Less children in the corridor at lunchtime
- Children more engaged in their play and willing to take risks
- Children involved in ordering scrap - request items before new delivery – this is added to order form
- MUSIC –Radio station creates a better dynamic
- Kids looking forward to lunchtime and having FUN
- Children creating own games with the equipment – skipping, team games
- Anecdotal evidence that children settle more quickly and are more engaged in learning after lunch
- Massive drop in number of behavioural incidents – incident cards – only 3/4 in the first three weeks
- in September compared to at least one per day the year before
- Very few accidents related to scrap

It has had an impact on the behaviour of particular children. There were a number of issues with two, Year 4 children – low level behavioural issues – This has stopped as they are so engaged in a range of role play activities. They also have started to collaborate with younger children and engage them in their play.