

## Role play outdoors

**Role play is an essential part of your nursery children's lives. It allows them to build imaginative worlds and make sense of - and test out - skills and knowledge from other areas of learning.**

Many nurseries, maybe yours included, have role play areas inside. But not as many include one in their outdoor area.

Here are our top tips for implementing an outdoor role play area at your nursery:

- **Follow children's interests**

Role play needs to be based on your children's interests and fascinations. The first thing you need to do is discover what these are and how you can incorporate them into your outdoor area.

- **Different ideas**

The outdoors offers many more opportunities for different role play ideas than the indoors. There is likely to be much more space. You will be able to incorporate outdoor resources such as the bikes, cars, mud, stones, den making equipment, the list is endless!

- **Utilise the outdoors**

Don't just transfer the indoor ideas outside; utilise the space and freedom offered by the outdoors.

- **Deconstructed role play**

Having deconstructed role play opportunities will enhance your children's imagination and building skills. Use crates, boxes, sheets, blankets, poles, branches, cargo nets, guttering and allow children to build their own role play arena. This may end up becoming a pirate ship or a cave, a castle or a tank!

