Task One

1.1/1.2

Play is important for the overall development of children this is because children who play from their point of view it is fun and enjoyable but from an adult’s point of view it is interesting to watch to see how they children grow and how they learn through play. In placement I often observe the children playing to see what they like to play this can then help choose other play opportunities for the children and can also help me see where some children might need help with areas of play, including joining in with others.

Children through play will develop social skills, children through play learn to take turns, during my time at placement I have noticed that the class I help out in the children have developed the ability to take turns, this is because through both adult intervention and playing with classmates they have learnt that to make a game work properly or to be able to take turns on tricycles they must learn to take turns.

Through play children also learn communication skills when children play they are constantly talking whether it’s to themselves or to their classmates.

“Children also use language when they play with others and may use it through play (putting on voices etc)” - (Tassoni, 2014)

2.1

“Inclusive play means making sure that all children have equal opportunities to play and that no children are excluded” – (Tassoni, Understanding Inclusive Pratice, 2014)

Inclusive play means that children of all races, gender, religion or disability are able to take part in play in an Early Years Setting, the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage says, “Practitioners must consider the individual needs, interests and stage of development of each child in their care, and must use this this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience for each child in all areas of learning and development” - (Para 1.6 of the EYFS Statutory Framework, 2014). Inclusive play is protected by the children’s right to play law and therefore all settings involved in the UN Convention. “This right is in Article 31, which states that ‘Every child has the right to relax, play and join in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities’ “ - (Tassoni, The Right For Children To Play, 2014)

5.2

In practice it is good to observe each individual child and how they play, how play supports the interests and abilities of children is by making sure that the play resources are sufficiently engaging and challenging, play is how children learn their social skills, how they learn to deal with emotions and play also helps communication, if children’s play needs aren’t met then it’s likely that children won’t be able to thrive and therefore their PSED and other areas of development won’t improve. When working with children you are analysing them and seeing how each child learns best.
There is a difference between adult led and play and child led play is that the adult helps provide the children with what they might need, adults have different types of knowledge therefore they can help bring it into the game that is being played, adults also organise activities. Child initiated play is where the child makes the decisions in the game, they decide who they want to play with and how to play the game, a lot of children will make up rules as the game goes on and change them if it suits them for example if it means you need to sit out when you’ve been caught a child will change the rule to ensure they stay in the game. Children also choose when to play ‘let’s play it at lunch time’ and may change their mind with who they want to play after the time goes on. Whilst child initiated play is interesting to watch sometimes children need some adult-led play to help the children explore new ideas on how to play a game, to help a child join in if they don’t feel confident enough to ask to play. Child-initiated play has many benefits such as:

1. Gaining confidence
2. Concentration
3. Creativity and Imagination
4. Perseverance – and example of perseverance in my placement is when a child was learning to walk on stilts and she didn’t give up and carried on persevering until she got it. - (Child On Stilts Aged 3 Learning to Walk On Stilts, 2017)

“Adult-led play often influences child-initiated play as, once children have learnt a new skill or game, they are likely to incorporate it into their own play or choose to repeat it” - (Tassoni, Adult Led Play Often Influences Child Initiated Play, 2014)