

# THE ADULT'S ROLE IN OUTDOOR PLAY<sup>9</sup>

Outdoor play is not only about the children! Adults matter a lot. Your actions and involvement can make a big difference in the quality and benefits of outdoor play.

## YOUR ROLE IS TO OFFER ↘



## PERMISSION

Let children play and allow for child-directed play.

Value play as essential to learning.

Model play by being playful yourself.

Adapted from [playwales.org.uk](http://playwales.org.uk)



## TIME



Give children time and opportunity to play.

Allow play to feel endless and uninterrupted.

Understand that joining in adult activities can't replace benefits of child-led play.

See page 36  
for more on  
Loose Parts



## MATERIALS

Offer a variety of options including loose parts that can be moved, combined and handled.

Many loose parts can be items that you would normally recycle or put in the garbage.

Rotate materials in and out of the play space



## SPACE

Good play spaces invite play. They include wonder, excitement and the unexpected.

Importantly, the best play spaces are not controlled by adults.