



## Your school is introducing a Scrapstore PlayPod!

### Why are we doing this?

The Wiltshire Scrapstore believe that play and well-being are the right of every child and we know children enjoy playing. Your primary school is aiming to create a better play experience which will explore and develop new ways of improving the lives of the children through play.



### What are we doing?

The Scrapstore PlayPod is a purpose build play facility full of scrap or loose parts from Wiltshire Scrapstore. The scrap materials, or 'loose parts', can include anything from cardboard tubes, tyres, lengths of material, netting, rope, and much, much more. At playtimes, staff open the doors and the children are free to go into the Scrapstore PlayPod and take out anything they like to play with.

The flexible nature and variety of scrap available means that the Scrapstore PlayPod creates an environment which will stimulate facilitate and enhance children's play experiences. Children are hugely imaginative and so the scrap is transformed into all kinds of different things to become part of their play.

### What are the benefits?

- Improved negotiation and communication skills
- Children settling quicker into class
- Children being enabled to take more risks through their play which inspires them to learn grow, develop and manage risk for themselves
- Less incidents and accidents
- Inclusion
- Increased concentration
- Clear and positive correlation between play and cognitive performance
- Lunchtime staff empowered to facilitate a playful environment

### Learning through Play

The Scrapstore PlayPod can enhance the physical and human environment within schools; creating stimulating and interactive spaces where children can learn through play.

*"I think it offers so many different learning opportunities. It is very positive."* **Parent, St Saviours Infant School**



### Critical Skills

The Scrapstore PlayPod encourages varied types of play which can involve sustained concentration, creative experiences, team building, co-operation, effective communication, increased sharing and negotiation, problem solving, and experiential learning.



*'I use the little tubes for roller-skates'* **KS2 Boy, Cadbury Heath Junior School**

*'We like crates for pulling each other around.'* **KS2 Boy, Cadbury Heath Junior School**

## **Risk**

The Scrapstore PlayPod encourages children to manage their own level of risk, and also learn how to develop the ability to assess risks for themselves.

*"Above all it's about giving children responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others. It's that approach to risk, where we empower and encourage children to take responsibility that has been the biggest revelation for me as a head teacher, our staff and our parents who have supported us to develop a more child centered approach to risk."*

**Head Teacher, Bromley Heath Junior School**



## **Reduction in Accidents, Incidents and Complaining Children**

Schools frequently anecdotally report a dramatic reduction in accidents, incidents and complaining from children. Children are engrossed in their play making lunchtimes easier to manage. Children are also able to self-manage minor accidents and incidents. This all leads to less curriculum time being spent resolving lunchtime issues.



*"Behaviour post lunchtime, some teachers tell me is significantly improved. Children come in more tired; they have had some good physical exercise and they are ready to learn. Teachers feel that there is less post lunch frustration."* **Head Teacher, Bromley Heath Junior School**

## **Inclusion**

Schools report that the Scrapstore PlayPod provides an environment that enables children to play in a way that they choose. This may be by themselves, in large or small groups, or with children who perhaps they would not normally play with. Often children who are socially isolated, or children who may have been excluded from other children's play, find themselves able to join in and play in a way that is far more appropriate for them, encouraging greater inclusion in the play space.



*"Mixed age, mixed gender, groups of children playing and working together, problem solving."* **Head teacher, Saltford Primary School**

*"Certain children who didn't play, play now."* **Lunchtime Staff, Cadbury Heath Junior School**

*"People are more friendly because there's more stuff there."* **KS2 Boy, Meadowbrook Junior School**

*"We used to play games in the little groups now we all play together."* **KS2 Boy Cadbury Heath Junior School**

## **Cool to Play**

The loose parts from the Scrapstore PlayPod can give provide opportunities for all children to play and express themselves freely.



*“Nearly all children involved in play no ‘hanging around the edges.’”*

**Lunchtime Staff, Meadowbrook Primary School**

### **Scrap Materials Make Great Loose Parts**

The introduction of loose parts in school playgrounds can enable children to be really creative in their play, simply because they are non-prescriptive and encourage a range of different play types.

*“You used to have to walk around and imagine but now you have the materials to do your ideas.”*

**KS2 girl, Meadowbrook Primary School**

*“What we’ve really noticed about the Scrapstore PlayPod is that all children get involved. There’s enough stuff in there for them all to play and they don’t get fed up with it they just keep finding other things to do.”* **Head Teacher, Severn Beach Primary School**

### **Professional Training for Lunchtime Staff**

The training program aims to enable staff to understand their role within the staff team as facilitators of play and the importance of their role within the whole school community. It also enables them to identify the benefits of play and to see how effective reflection can improve their performance as a team as well as increase their job satisfaction.

*‘Makes happy children and happy dinner ladies’*

**Lunchtime staff, St Saviours Infant School**

*“My staff now see playtime as an opportunity for children to enjoy themselves rather than as a testing time to organise eating and discipline and so on, and has moved things firmly in the direction of play and fun.”* **Head Teacher, Bromley Heath Junior School**

*“The training has made a big difference to my job and also how my children are playing at home too! Brill!!!!”* **Parent, St Saviours**



The Scrapstore PlayPods are restocked with reusable and recycled scrap materials on a regular basis and take into consideration the requests of the children.

### **What is Wiltshire Scrapstore?**

Wiltshire Scrapstore is registered charity, which collects scrap from business and industry that can be used creatively by children. Scrap comes in all shapes and sizes. It is all clean and safe for children to play with.

If you would like further information please ask at school or contact the Wiltshire Scrapstore: email: [jane@wiltsplay.org.uk](mailto:jane@wiltsplay.org.uk) or Tel: 01249 730011