

Play at Crimlin N.S.

Childhood is a wonderful time. Children are looking around at their world with fresh, innocent, inquisitive eyes, absorbing it all. They look at things and wonder how they work. They hear adults speaking about things and try to make sense of them. They talk to each other about things that they see around them. They make little worlds for themselves and live in them, until someone calls them to eat their lunches or do a page of sums. We grown-ups call this “play”, but to the child it is very important work. If the X Box is not connected to the screen, nothing will come up on the screen, and no game can be played. So the piece of ribbon connecting the two in the model they made themselves, must remain in place.



CRIMLIN N.S. PUPILS PLAYING WITH RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

The urge to recreate their world drives children to make models of things that they meet in their everyday lives. Children in Crimlin N.S., for example, have made very realistic models of a bird table, an X Box, a television and racing car, to name a few. They used large and small cardboard boxes, clothes hangers, lengths of string and other odds and ends. Details were added using felt markers with a steady hand. They searched their memories to bring up an image of how the real thing was constructed and set to work to replicate it. They discussed and debated every aspect of their model with vigour, and with no inhibitions whatsoever.

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The young children followed their own interests and decided themselves what they wanted to make. This meant that they were totally engrossed in their project. There is nothing quite like the feeling that one is in charge of one's own work. The satisfaction one feels on finally getting a model to look like the image in one's head, is reward enough.

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The children are playing, and they do not realise that they are grappling with the same



CRIMLIN N.S. PUPILS TRY OUT THEIR T.V. AND REMOTE CONTROL

mathematical and scientific ideas that engineers, builders and other adult workers are handling in their daily work.

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Getting ideas, planning, discussing, debating, constructing and coping with problems are exactly the same for the adult professional, albeit at a more sophisticated level. Persistence

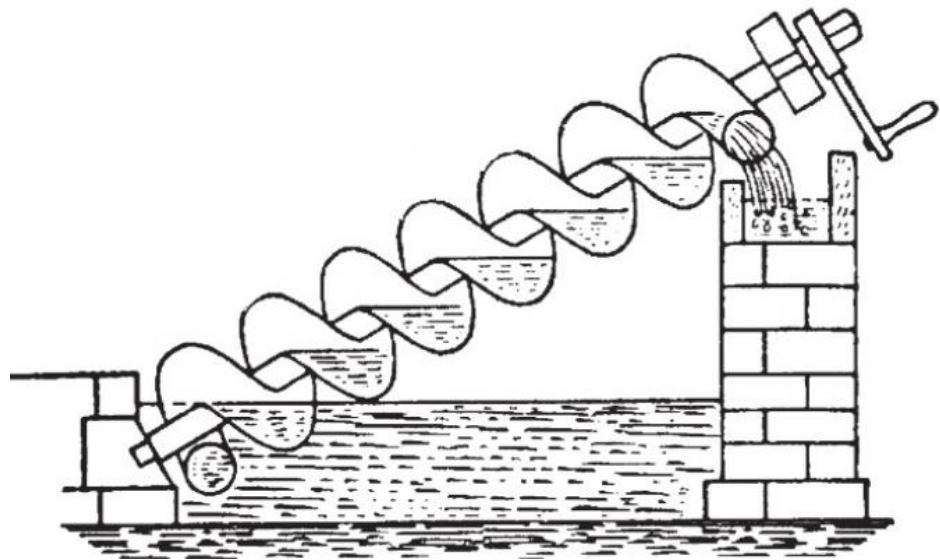


is required. An acceptance that problems are part and parcel of real life, is crucial to success.

Famous scientists down through the years made their discoveries by looking at the world around them and experimenting with things.



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Archimedes' screw made it possible to carry water from a lower level to a higher one.

At Crimlin N.S. we aim to harness the children's natural curiosity and release their creativity to encourage them to drive their own learning. To this end, we make room for play in the normal school day, especially for the junior pupils.

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