



#PlayToday

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promoting the value of play

DIGGING PATCHES

Digging in soil provides different play experience from sand play, and should be provided in a separate area, away from the sand pit to prevent any spilt soil from mixing with the sand area.

The digging patch provides opportunities for large muscle play given that metal spades are often used. For this reason it should be sited where it can be easily seen and supervised by staff. To minimise accidents it needs to be kept out of the main traffic areas. As this area is frequently messy due to the nature of the play, siting away from entry areas or immediately outside buildings is advisable for aesthetic reasons and to avoid the trampling of mud indoors.

Where boundaries are necessary these may be defined by shrub planting, smooth boulders, logs, planks, bricks or any combination of these.

Digging areas need:

- a convenient water supply;
- to be large enough for large muscle activity;
- a depth of **500-600 mm**;
- soil which can be manipulated by small children, (add old sand and lawn clippings and dig over periodically to keep this workable); and
- to be sited away from underground services.

Sandy loam is recommended and ought to be available from most nurseries.

Having an old table or cable reel adjacent allows the soil to be utilised as mud play.