There is that constant teaching dilemma between if you have open access and freedom the more quiet, shy child never have access because don’t have the confidence. But then if you structure it all so everyone has equal access you are taking the freedom away from them, and that is a dilemma.

PLAY IS A COMPLETE VEHICLE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL
The ideal primary school would have a much more open policy with parents and families.

An open policy where there is a continuous dialogue. My feeling as a parent is that they (the school) just want me to drop my child at the door and collect him at the door and unless there has been an ‘incident’ they don’t really want to talk to me, and I think that really creates barriers. It’s that emphasis on building relationships, isn’t it?

HOW SHOULD THE SCHOOL OF THE FUTURE BE?
Staff

It’s also about being able to say what good childcare is, and it doesn’t feel that there are the opportunities or that many people are listening within the government to what good early years practice is.

The thing they forget is that if you get it right now, at this early stage, the sky will be the limit for these children. But they are not appreciating that, the importance of it.
Maryam put my shoe trapped in the rope
here I am cleaning the floor
I am cleaning up and is clean
I cleaning and drawing

I trapped
I whistle
very quiet
I am having a tent
I am just looking
that's Maryam, trapped me
I've got all of them
I have one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight,
nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirty, sixteen, eleventeen,
firsteen and eighteen and nineteen!

I did clean the floor and I got water
and I cleaned and it smells lovely
Child

I made this
I connected it
... one, two, three, four, five, six, seven
and then I bendeded
and that's how I made the arch

in this one I connected one, two, three
to make this long one up to the ceiling

in this one I started to make the arch
I connected one, two, three, then four,
then I put it down to stick it to the ground
and then I started to clip it
because I wanted to

then I went in and out
and I played with it
Child

Ines put me in jail
and Ines said – I am a police girl!
and I said I want to cut his head off
but then I was in jail
it was fun, cause I can dance
and then I got scissors and I cut the jail doors out!
Ines was sleeping
then I was sneakily going
but then Ines woke up
Ines thought – he’s gone!
and I was inside
Ines looked up anywhere but I was not here

look I have more
I am a big bad wolf sleeping
yes, and I am the big bad wolf
I am going to take Lulu to jail!
Should we prepare children for school or should we prepare schools for children?

WHAT DOES CHILD-LED ACTUALLY MEAN?
“the recent emergence in the UK of profound debates about the state of the nation’s children – with talk of the ‘death of childhood’ – is fuelled by concern about the degree to which children’s everyday lives are being colonised, even poisoned, by adult agendas. There are real political questions that need to be asked about children’s need for space and time in which the concerns of adults genuinely fade into the background.”

Tim Gill

ARE CHILDREN ENTITLED TO SOME NON—UNDERSTOOD SPACE?
Chaos for who?

CHAOS

JUST

IS

NOT

What is the adults’ role?

Do we really understand what children are doing?

RECOGNISING

THE

How do we present alternative, multiple readings of play?

PATTERN
Initially it took me some time to understand it, the free play you know? And the developmental process they go through and I think parents do need to be educated, obviously we want our children to read and write and all of that, that too is important, you know? Holding a ball and throwing a ball and all that process of development, the motor skills, that’s as important, that is what is going to help them to be able to hold a pen you know? But also it’s about learning facts through experience.
Usually if it's something new he will kind of observe it. If it looks good, or he is not a hundred percent, he will walk around... and if you are there the next day he may just try it or walk around again and eventually give it a go.

SHOULD CHILDREN BE IN CHARGE OF WHAT THEY ARE LEARNING, FOLLOWING THEIR INTERESTS INSTEAD OF THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM?
One of the things my kids are looking forward to when we go to Bangladesh is that they can just go out, they say mum seriously? We don’t need permission? We do not need to be with you? I say no, you can just go. And they are shocked, they really can’t believe it, and I think that’s a really fundamental point here that we don’t let our children go out for five minutes one yard away from us. We have to give them that trust as much as possible, if you just create fear in them even if it is for legitimate reasons is not good for their development, they won’t be able to trust the next person.
Parent

But you know, children are not bad, with my kids, he has started riding his bike and I trust him, sometimes he will ride really, really far to where I can barely see him but I trust him to stop when there is a road, and he is a four year old and he stops every time, every time! So it’s good they start to use their own mind to assess things. It’s a continuous process, that’s what learning is.

HOW ARE CHILDREN BEST PREPARED FOR SCHOOL?
The Academies concern me, to be honest, it’s going to have a detrimental effect on the generations to come because it’s a new concept, obviously well intentioned, but we need to give our children morals, it’s not just about good grades and academia, good morals, how to be a good human being, how to be good to others, you know! respect for yourself, respect for your body, respect for your community, all of these are such pillars for what should be a human being’s life. These are the things that I really focus on with my children.
It’s important that our children are let to be who they are, and that they are not judged. We all have our own separate identities, we are all different, we have to be accepting of each other, that’s the way the world is, if you go against the grain that’s where the conflict arises. It’s a scary time with that Prevent policy coming in.

This is a very good transition from home life to outsiders providing care and love.

WHAT IS NORMAL?
WHO IS THE STANDARD CHILD?
WHAT IS MISSED OUT IN THESE DEFINITIONS?

HOW SHOULD PRIMARY SCHOOLS CHANGE TO BETTER SUPPORT CHILDREN?