

# Swap Shop

## Learning objectives:

For children and families to see that there isn't a need to throw things out that still have a lot of life left in them.

Sharing can go a long way with community and environmental benefits whilst also saving money.



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## Practitioner knowledge:

Everything that we buy and use has a footprint of impact.

Making clothes, toys and books leads to greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide to be produced from factories, which contribute to climate change.

Toys and clothes often rely on oil to be extracted from the ground to make the plastic or polyester. Clothing can lead to serious water pollution from the chemicals used in the treatment and dyes. This impact is not always obvious, so it's not often something we think about when buying new products.

Being able to keep things in use for as long as possible is a fantastic way to reduce our impact on our planet and climate and save some money!



## Toy swap

Did you know that around **8 out of 10** toys end up in landfill? Many are only played with for a short amount of time before being thrown away, even though they're still in great condition. A toy swap is a fun and simple way to change that.

By bringing in pre-loved toys, children can swap with friends and take home something 'new to them' without anything going to waste. It's a great opportunity to refresh their toy collection, whilst also learning an important lesson about looking after our planet.

Toy swaps help children see that toys don't need to be brand new to be exciting. Sharing and reusing gives each toy a new lease of life, reduces waste, saves money and keeps perfectly good items out of landfill.

**It's not just good for the environment, it's also a lovely way to encourage sharing, generosity, and community!**





## Clothes swap

Children grow quickly. So quickly that they are out of clothes they may have only worn once or twice, they may haven't even had time to wear them. As a result, many perfectly good items are only used for a short time before being thrown away.

In fact, an article by Emily Jordan in 2025 highlights that the UK sends an estimated 216 million pieces of children's clothing to landfill every year.

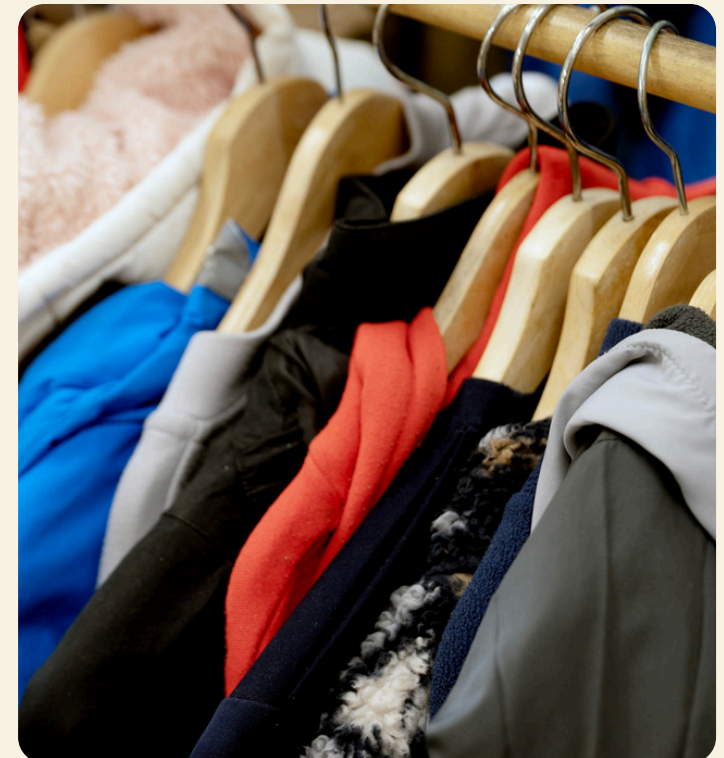
A clothes swap is a simple, positive way to change that.

By bringing in clothes that no longer fit, parents can share with others and pick items that are new to their child or siblings, without the need to buy more.

It's a practical way to keep up with fast-growing little ones while reducing waste.

It's not just good for the environment, it's a great way to save money, reduce waste, and make the most of clothes that still have plenty of life left in them.

Swap shops also create a sense of community, encouraging families to support one another while making a more sustainable choice.





## **Book swap / lending library**

Children grow out of books just as quickly as they do toys and clothes.

Stories that were once favourites can end up sitting on shelves or being thrown away, even though they still have so much to offer another child. A book swap or lending library is a simple and lasting way to keep those stories alive.

By bringing in books they've finished with, children can choose new ones to take home and enjoy, again and again. Whether it's set up in setting or in a waterproof, outdoor cabinet, a shared book space can become a regular part of daily life.

Lending libraries and book swaps keep good books in circulation for longer and reduce waste. They also encourage a love of reading, as children discover new exciting stories whilst sharing their favourites with others.

It's not just good for the environment. It builds a sense of community, encourages reading for pleasure, and makes books accessible to everyone.

**Leave a book, take a book, and let the adventures continue!**



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