

### **Teacher 3, Responses to Questionnaire – Parents' and Teachers' Understanding and Practices of Play and Learning**

1. What you understand by term the play for 3-4-year-old children?

Play is what children love to do. Children like to play especially through abstract concepts. While they are playing, they are learning. Their subconscious plays a role when they are playing. You cannot give a 3-4-year-old concrete objects at this age. They have no pencil control as yet. They rather love playing with objects like blocks and colourful objects, they love everything abstract. They are entertained through play.

2. How do you engage your children in play and learning?

I engage them by using the appropriate tools and equipment. Everything is done from concrete to abstract. I assist them in engaging them in activities such as spooning, water activities, clay and blocks. Through these play activities, they are learning and developing hand eye coordination.

3. Do you consider play as learning? Explain

Yes, play is learning. Children love to play. There is no better way for a child to learn than learning through play. It is important to play educational games. It is vital to make learning fun. An example is Ludo, children develop mathematical concepts through this game. Another game I love to play with my learners, is where I hide numbers and alphabets and we play hide and seek. In this way they are playing, learning and developing concepts.

4. Do you think play is more important than learning? Why

At this stage yes. At this age of 3-4 years, they don't have a long concentration span. 4-year-olds have a concentration span of about 4 mins. Play activities help

in their concentration. Through play , they learn. Children have a subconscious mind so for example if they are watching barney , they will learn the song.

5. Do you think learning is more important than play ? Why ?

Learning is important. Everything has its time, depending on each age group. Different developmental levels need to be reached at its particular time and age. All activities are done from concrete to abstract. Children learn by feeling , by movement , and more play and learning. Through play children are learning.

6. Do you prefer that your children plays and learns? Why?

Yes. Everything goes from concrete to abstract. Through play children are learning. Children are developing through play. Children develop all their senses through play. Blocks assist with their sense of touch by feeling and holding it. I give my children activities where they feel different material. Through play , their tactile skills are developing. Sensory skills are enhanced through play.

7. Do your children like to play ? Why ?

My children love to play. 3-4 year old's enjoy to play . They also love to sing. They just love to play and learn. They find it exciting. One of their favourites is fantasy play where they act and it helps to bring out their character.

8. When you are setting up the environment for activities , do you ensure that the children's choices are considered? Why

You have to consider their choice . I have to consider and see if they will enjoy it. The environment is set up according to the age of the children. Equipment is chosen age appropriately. Activities are not monotonous. I have to continuously change play and learning activities so that the children don't get bored. Once they have mastered a certain activity we move on to the next. The equipment used for

these activities are set up. The activities chosen are activities that are fun for children.

9. How do you ensure that children are happy/delighted with the learning activities ?

As an educator, I have to prepare myself. You need to express yourself as a teacher and come to the level of the children. This is what I do. I give my children lots of love and respect and praise them. I participate in play activities with them. When we do rhymes or stories , I become the character and I do all the actions of the character. Personality of the teacher plays a big role in ensuring that your children are happy/delighted with the learning activities,

10.How does learning take place in the playroom and how does learning take place in the playground.?

In the playroom children learn to share as they participate in many group activities. Learning takes place in a more structured manner and fine motor skills are developed through play and learning activities within the playroom. Respect for each other is encouraged. Each child respects each other's time with the teacher and they respect each other's tasks.

In the playground all the children are together and they are developing and learning through different activities outside. They learn different skills when playing on the jungle gym. When children are outside they are happy, noisy and enjoy it even more than inside. They develop gross motor skills through playground activities.

11.Describe how you set up the play learning environment for the children?

I prepare the play learning environment the day before. So every day after the children leave I set it up for the next day. Equipment is chosen very carefully according to each child's abilities and needs. All the equipment is set up in trays which is put in shelves. The children are free to choose any activity that they wish

to play. The environment is very prepared. There is also a jungle gym outside which they play on with supervision.

12. From the pictures explain which picture best depicts learning ? Explain

All are very important. Reading and engaging with your child by reading picture one allows for language development. I really like picture 2 , it is extremely important for parents to encourage and praise children. In picture 3 children's gross motor skills are developing. Picture 4 shows the importance of child and teacher interaction. In picture 5 , the child is developing on imaginary skills.

For me pic 2 stands out. It is so important that parents play with their child. It creates a sense of bonding between parents and child. It is very important for parents to encourage their children , play with them and have fun with them. Parents need to praise their children and engage/interact with them It helps children develop.

13. Do you consider certain play activities to be risky activities? Explain

Yes, some outside activities on the jungle gym may be risky. You need supervision. A child cannot be left all alone by themselves. Equipment that is not dangerous needs to be chosen. Constant supervision is very important. Children like to put things in their mouth, they need to be supervised. You cannot let children play with scissors on their own.

