

Themes , Subthemes and Categories (Parents understanding, practices and contestations of play and learning)

THEME, Subtheme and category	Parents understanding, practices and contestations of play and learning
Understanding of play and learning	P2: Play is a means through which children learn. Currently my 3.5-year-old engages in various types of play which allows her to explore under supervision, with assistance or independently which gives her the opportunity to learn about herself and her surroundings.
Subtheme 1.1: Parents understanding of play and learning	<p>P3: Play are activities that children engage in. Play can either be structured or unstructured. Interacting with the child through play, can be in the form of structured play such as building blocks or unstructured like bath time fun.</p> <p>P4 : For my 3-year-old, play means being extremely busy and having a distinct need to be occupied most of the time. It involves the developmental aspect of expressing his feelings –like when he needs to express frustration, or needs to share with me that he loves messy’ play. Although he has moved from being dependent on me for play, to being much more independent</p> <p>P5: Play is an essential part of their lives and can be done formally or informally. Formal play could include getting them to complete a task by following instructions. Informal play is allowing them to explore on their own and getting their creative juices flowing. Both types of play are fundamental.</p> <p>P6: Independent and self-driven play -Fantasy play and imaginative play. Physical play. Structured play-conductive to the development of literacy skills (though reading) play which begins enculturating children into the real world, conducive to developing social skills (e.g. cooperative behavior)</p>

Commented [S1]: Formal and informal play are important

Category a: Developmental Domains	<p>P1; I feel more play at a young age encourages more robust reasoning, better socialization and more independent thought. Rough play also develops better physical conditioning which is key in developing the gross and fine motor skills needed for writing, drawing and improved focus.</p> <p>Yes, while not necessary in all instances he does need to reach some milestones to be a well-rounded individual a balance of both is needed.</p> <p>P2: I think at her current age- the means to learning is through play, so they go hand in hand.... neither one is more important than the other as play is the means for them to learn and explore.</p> <p>P3 look at Q5 from interview schedule</p> <p>P4: I think they work hand in glove. Especially if it is meaningful. It helps develop curiosity with confidence, knowledge with understanding. I certainly see the benefits at his age. There are certain anatomical developments that need to happen in the play (like finger strengthening with play dough) to facilitate the learning (writing). Role playing helps teach order, understanding and consequence. I don't think 1 should replace the other, but I do feel that at this age, play needs to precede the isolated concept of learning.</p> <p>P 5: Children learn through play. Structured play like puzzles or fantasy play like dress up. There is always a lesson learnt. Play is crucial and valuable in every child's mental growth. Learning is as important as play, works hand in hand. I feel more knowledge and skill will be absorbed this way(child play and learns). The technique of playing and learning is far greater than just learning alone. Academic skill is important, however play forms the foundation of a child's mindset and allows them to crack their curiosity.</p>
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Commented [SB2]: Although this parent seems to agree that play is more important he speaks of milestones.

Commented [S3]: Again emphasizing that play must be meaningful must develop knowledge

Commented [S4]: Talks about a technique of playing . Knowledge will be absorbed by playing.

	<p>P 6: At this particular age I believe that play and learning are inextricably linked. They are both equally important for a holistic development. I prefer that my child plays and learns in a structured manner. I believe play is a natural form of learning.</p>
<p>Category b: Playing is fun</p>	<p>P1: Yes, He loves to play. He loves engaging in all playful activities, indoors and outdoors. He finds it enjoyable, and it gives him a sense of freedom and independence.</p> <p>P3: She does, started playing on her own from about 6 months and now she is 4. She finds all play activities fun and therefore loves to play.</p> <p>P4: He loves it!!! It helps him burn his energy, it he loves discovering new things and understanding how things work, but most of all I think he loves getting dirty☺</p> <p>P5: All the time ! At meal times can be a good example or even when pretend playing. The fact that they are playing gives them endless opportunities to develop and unleash hidden talents.</p> <p>P6: He does enjoy play. He is an immensely curious child, he is curious about everything around him including social structure and nature, how things operate and function. Play provides an opportunity and an outlet through which all of these can be explored in a way which is accessible to him. He seems to enjoy play as a natural instinct.</p>
<p>Theme 2 Practices of playful learning</p>	<p>P1: involving him in household activities – cooking, cleaning and gardening. Promoting exploration by calling attention to the new and unfamiliar - insects, garden pests, our personal hobbies and tools. Directly engaging in imaginative play with his toys and acting out stories, reading books. The best tool I've found has been free play with other children and uninhibited exploration.</p>

Commented [S5]: Play and learns in a structured manner

Commented [S6]: Yellow-household
Green-gardening and outside
Blue-sand/lego/songs etc
Red – Tv and electronics
Purple-Reading and language

<p>Subtheme 2.1: Parents' practices of playful learning</p>	<p>P2: She enjoys playing outside, riding her bike and picking up things or asking questions about her surroundings, thus exploring and learning new vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baking is a new task she enjoys and will assist with the stirring and adding of the ingredients- this allows her to learn to be involved in the kitchen Playing with sand or play dough or Lego- allows her to sensory explore and be involved with imaginary play by making her own items Coloring and painting- this is more structured play as it usually involves us as parents having to assist her by guiding her with writing/drawing/painting and coloring in the lines Watching tv- she is allowed to watch educational tv episodes for an hour a day- she has picked up a number of words through this Reading- we have instilled in her the love for reading, although she cannot read yet, every night she goes to bed with a 3 to 4 books which we have to read to her. She has started to recognizes some of the word and knows some of the books by heart. <p>P3 We try to add different areas of learning like counting or shapes when outside or bake together.</p> <p>P4: We learn through everyday activities like him helping me bake, or helping me hang up washing (where he does the pegging on a piece of cardboard to ready it for me). We set aside time for building with his wooden/Lego blocks, threading and even for gardening. Reading happens twice a day, once when it is his nap time in the afternoon, and the other time at bedtime. Some</p>	<div> <p>Commented [K7]: The first two points show that the parent allows the child to play through assisting with household chores</p> </div> <div> <p>Commented [K8]: From these points onwards, the parent seems to want the child to learn more than play, she talks about play like a teacher- structured paly ... with an learning goal in mind.</p> </div> <div> <p>Commented [S9]: Household chores emphasized , very structured play . Times given for activities</p> </div>
<p>Category a: Playful learning Activities</p>		

	<p>learning happens through HOMER, an app on his iPad – 15 min twice a week.</p> <p>P5: I am a stay at home mum even though I am available to see my child the entire day , I still prefer having a routine. This includes structured play time. We have good days and bad days. There are days when we don't achieve all the goals set out. But that is still okay. Informal play covers up for that and saves the day. Learning through play includes pretend play. 3-4 year old love exploring. cannot stress enough on how important play is to a child. It allows them to gain social skills and the interaction could create and build self-esteem. Children learn through play.</p> <p>P6: We engage him through singing rhymes , joking , arts and crafts. We also encourage physical activity , kicking / throwing balls , riding a scooter , cycling and horse-riding. Predominantly our engagement with him (excluding forms of independent play) are concentrated upon reading and related activities. We especially enjoy the works of Dr Seuss as it teaches him to be creative and play with language. We read to him and encourage comprehension by deconstructing the story and engaging and exploring through questions about what we have just read.</p>
<p>Category : b:</p> <p>Choice of Toy</p>	<p>P1: Yes, I believe it promotes independence, create inclusiveness within the family unit (respected authority to make independent choices) also I don't play with the toys he does.</p> <p>P2: This gives her the opportunity to be involved in decision making and the understanding that although there are many toys she must choose the best one for her.</p> <p>P3: I usually give her two options and then ask her to choose one, I don't give her free range as she might choose a toy that I think is not appropriate for her age or personality</p>

Commented [S10]: Engaging in many ambitious activities , focus on reading

Commented [K11]: This parent is very authoritative and one notices that learning is more important to play with her.

	<p>P4: I believe strongly in having a choice in life. At his age though, he does need guidance, so I would often select 2 options, of which he can choose 1 from it.</p> <p>P5: It depends. When my child does good or gets praised for doing extra than normal it gets noted on a reward chart. At certain times he is allowed to choose his own toy. Other times I choose for him (educational toys). They kid . They need balance. Having the right toys or equipment is important. It does not have to be expensive things. Recycled toys or even homemade toys works wonders too. Having the right toys or equipment is important. It does not have to be expensive things. Recycled toys or even homemade toys works wonders too</p> <p>P6: He is able to choose his own toy within limitations (budget appropriacy)related to age and benefit to his development. Whilst we like to encourage expression and independence related to decision making and though process the need exists to balance this against appropriacy. He has in the past expressed a desire to have toys which we worried , carried the risk of encouraging negative behaviors such as violence or hyper masculinity /toys which contradict values we are trying to inculcate. We would generally provide him with a list of options which are age appropriate, beneficial, provide open-ended play and encouraging imaginative thinking and emotional intelligence. Examples of these include Lego, Leapfrog products, trains and play dough.</p>
Category c: Setting up of the play	<p>P1: He has a dedicated toy room but is free to set up <i>shop</i> where ever he likes. He often brings his toys or work to where others are.</p> <p>Not necessarily demanding engagement but rather presence.</p>

Commented [S12]: Needs guidance , not total independence

Commented [S13]: Reward chart used , parents choses educational toys.

Commented [S14]: Many limitations in choosing toy. All about development and intelligence

learning environment	<p>P2: From a young age she has learnt that after playing with one toy she needs to put it away and then move to the next. This reduces any form of overstimulation to avoid a tantrum or frustration. She also knows that she has to ask if she is allowed to play with certain toys as she has a little brother and smaller toys are not allowed when he is awake because he may choke.</p> <p>P3: Not always done intentionally, she has a chalk board in her room where she can practice writing.</p> <p>It is structured sometimes when she does art or coloring then I provide her with the coloring and art equipment and set it out for her.</p> <p>P4: We have a dedicated space for outdoor play and depending on the activity, we set up for paint or for gardening.</p> <p>More organic learning/play in the house usually just follows the order of the day – like the baking, etc. where he will have a small section of the island to roll his scone dough. He also has a table indoors that he uses for play dough, or kinetic sand. The challenge isn't usually the setting up to play- it's the cleaning up afterwards ☺</p> <p>P5: I don't have a specific lay out. But I try to make it as fun as possible. Most of the time its free play and my child chooses what to do. Having the right toys or equipment is important. It does not have to be expensive things. Recycled toys or even homemade toys works wonders too.</p> <p>P6: We currently utilize our garage as a space for play /learning. We have set up tables and chairs as well as necessary stationery , map with alphabets in various colors a book corner , chalkboard an assortment of educational toys /most utilized toys.</p>
Children's' experiences of	<p>P2: If she experiences failure/difficulty for example while painting or building a puzzle she will get upset ask for help and with a few</p>

Commented [K15]: The child plays but the parent has rules regarding the use of certain toys. Note there is a restriction regarding the number of hours that the child uses the ipad or watches tv.

Commented [K16]: This parent has schoolified her home learning environment

Commented [S17]: Very structured environment . no outdoor play mentioned

play and learning	motivational words and some minor guidance she will go back and try again.
Inside or outside the house	<p>P1: Both, every exploration brings with It an opportunity to pick up new knowledge or experiences.</p> <p>P2: Learning takes place everywhere, in the house, outside or driving in the car. She is continuously being stimulated and is always asking or talking about her surroundings.</p> <p>P3: but more dominant inside. She plays inside with a variety of equipment and we even bake together.</p> <p>P4: Depending on the weather, activity type, it can happen either inside or outside.</p> <p>P5: There is a time and place for everything. Also, weather permitting. Water play is mainly done outside .The only water play we do inside the house is during bath time! A nice warm day also would get us taking some toys outdoors and setting up an obstacle task. Playing sport is one of my child's favorite activities. Playing sport is one of my child's favorite activities. He loves being physical. Soccer or Cricket. Indoor play includes Lego or play dough. This is generally done on the floor or at a table.</p> <p>P6: Learning takes place both inside as well as outside. I would like to think that learning at this point is taking place almost constantly throughout the day for him. Throughout the day and in all time spent with him we make sure to encourage him to think by pointing out / drawing attention also asking questions not necessarily geared at soliciting a response but rather to get him thinking .</p>
Choice of pic	<p>P1: #4</p> <p>P2: #5- playing on her own</p> <p>P4 : picture 4. There are other children to learn from in a guided environment, as well as skills development. At the same time,</p>

Commented [S18]: No play mentioned

	<p>there is social interaction, the setting to understand how things work, and also teamwork</p> <p>P5- pic 4 Children in a play group with an educator is more structured. But by having peers learn together it could create excitement and more interest in the lesson.</p>
Risky play	<p>P1: Cell phone games and electronic entertainment are riddled with questionable advertisements and bad behavioral loops. I deem these to be much higher risk than falling on a playground.</p> <p>P2: Yes, playing outside alone or on the jungle gym or trampoline is risky at her age as she tends to not know the use/limit of certain items and thus it needs to be supervised.</p> <p>P3: I am sometimes overly cautious when it comes to some play activities, I feel that children in this age group still require adequate supervision.</p> <p>P4: Some can be – such as unsupervised playground activity. Children can be reckless, or over enthusiastic, sometimes overestimating their capacities, which can result in severe injuries.</p> <p>P5: Yes, like outdoor play activities that are unsupervised or any unsupervised activity for a 3-4-year-old. Older kids are more reliable and know better.</p> <p>P6: I do as mention above toys which in any way encourage hypermasculinity, rough play, violence, lassitude or in any way compromises the emotional intelligence of the child or glamorizes negative behaviors (violence or chauvinism) Examples of toys we don't encourage /buy superhero themed toys, toy guns / weapons of any sort, monster trucks.</p>
Theme 3: Contestations	

Commented [S19]: Playground activities outside can result in injury

Commented [S20]: Unsupervised outdoor play activities are risky

Commented [S21]: Toys that encourage rough play discouraged

<p>between play and learning</p> <p>Subtheme 3.1: Parents' views regarding the contestations between play and learning</p>	<p>P1: Free movement and expression with in a safe, but not restrictive or overbearing, environment.</p> <p>At this age I believe the terms to be synonyms. He responds well, a better level of attention and enjoyment, and better absorbs new concepts when there is no definite distinction between learning and play.</p> <p>P2 Yes as can be seen from the activities listed in question 2. Children learn through play during their early years and I have seen a remarkable change in my daughter from age 2 to 3. She does not only learn new vocabulary through play but imaginary and problem solving as well.</p> <p>P3 Yes, I do. When children are playing they are learning. The different activities that they engage allows them to learn. For example, when they play with shapes or blocks they actually learning what each shape is.</p> <p>P4 Absolutely! While play has to be fun for the preschooler, I prefer it to be meaningful. Learning (playing) alongside me, or other members of our family, I find that my 3-year-old develops an understanding for how things work, the 'rules' of engagement. I see the cognitive and creative come together when he asks questions and begins to problem solve.</p> <p>P5: I cannot stress enough on how important play is to a child. Whether its building a Lego Tower or playing Shop. Another method of fundamental play is playing with other children , same age or different. This allows them to gain social skills and the interaction could create and build their self-esteem. Play is very important and sets a positive mindset for a child. It definitely is considered as learning and they reap many benefits from it. Children learn through play. Structured play like puzzles or fantasy play like dress up. There is always a lesson learnt. Play is crucial</p>
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Commented [SB22]: Description of play

Commented [SB23]: Learning is described as ...

Commented [S24]: Parent ageing that play is important but emphasizes that the type of play must be meaningful, must help cognitively.

Commented [S25]: Always lessons learnt through play

	<p>and valuable in every child's mental growth. Learning is as important as play , works hand in hand.</p> <p>P6: I most certainly do furthermore one may argue that play is the first and most natural form of learning. Through play children are able to create a world for themselves by themselves,</p> <p>Interview questions 3 and 4</p>
Children's' experiences of play and learning	<p>P2: If she experiences failure/difficulty for example while painting or building a puzzle she will get upset ask for help and with a few motivational words and some minor guidance she will go back and try again.</p>
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