

## **Parent 1 – 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?

The natural inclination to explore their surroundings. Free movement and expression within a safe, but not restrictive or overbearing, environment.

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

Encourage engagement and inquiry through the normal course of daily activities. For example, 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.

3. Do you consider play as learning ? Explain

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. I believe in the gift of failure and the joy of an independent success are invaluable.

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

Free uninhibited exploration lends itself to independent development. Faster navigation of new concepts and a greater drive to reach novel solutions to problems since there is no rigid guidance. 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.

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

At a later stage a more balanced partitioned between the play and learning is needed. The greater level of self-rationalization needs careful moulding to fully develop. A

structured learning environment delivers the guidance needed to absorb higher level concepts.

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

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.

7. Does your child like to play ? Why ?

Yes, Mistaaaans

8. When you go shopping with your child , do you allow your child to choose his/her own toy? Why?

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.

9. How do you ensure that your child is happy/delighted with the learning activities ?

When engaged without us he does well in a play school environment with other kids. With us it's not easy and rarely ends well, he does not respond to direct learning activities but will happily and successfully complete similar tasks if presented as play; connecting dots in a workbook is tedious connecting the lines on a carpet is fun

10. Does learning take place inside or outside the house ?

Both, every exploration brings with it an opportunity to pick up new knowledge or experiences.

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

He has a dedicated toy room but is free to set up *shop* where ever he likes. He often brings his toys or work to where others are. Not necessarily demanding engagement but rather presence.

*"The world is his oyster and he shits all over it."* – Actual Quote from Aghast Husband

12. From the pictures explain which picture best depicts learning ? Explain  
#4 – for my son this best represents a formalized learning activity. He does however pick up much of his on vocation.

13. Do you consider certain play activities to be risky activities? Explain  
Cell phone games and electronic entertainment are riddled with questionable advertisements and bad behavioural loops. I deem these to be much higher risk than falling on a playground.

*While the baking was fine. Hopping him up and cough syrup and allowing him to operate heavy machinery, was not a wise move. – Another Quote from Aghast Husband*