

Teacher 2, Responses to Questionnaire – Parents' and Teachers' Understanding and Practices of Play and Learning

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

There are different types of play for children. Play is one of the best ways for kids to learn through because during play, they are not only enjoying themselves, they are improving their fine and gross motor skills, social skills when playing with other kids, sensory development, sequencing skills, problem solving skills, etc.

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

Playing with a ball or outside play improves their gross motor skills. Playing with play dough, kinetic sand, or water play enhances their sensory skills. Playing with blocks, colouring in a simple picture, threading, etc, enhances their fine motor development. There are many other ways in which children play and learn at the same time.

3. Do you consider play as learning ? Explain

Yes I do. Play, with children is not only a form of fun and excitement. While they play they learn and improve their skills to grow and learn. They learn problem solving and how to get along with others. They also gain self-confidence when they see what they have accomplished once they are done building a tower for example or colouring in a picture or climbing a ladder etc and this allows them to then engage in new experiences and environments.

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

Both are important because when children play, they learn at the same time. We believe children learn through play as well.

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

I think that they are both important. Children are learning through play and when they are playing they are learning so both play and learning go together and they are both very important

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

Yes. Learning is part of life and play is part of what children do. Children can learn colours, shapes, numbers, sequencing, etc all through play. Play is not only beneficial to children's physical development but to all forms of development in children.

7. Do your children like to play ? Why ?

Yes they love play time. They find it exciting when they get to choose which form of play they want to take part in and sit with their friends in a group. It is their time where they can choose what they want to do in the class. They enjoy fantasy play the most as well as play dough corner. They use the connect pipes as swords and guns and use the play dough to make yummy biscuits and cakes and even put them in the 'oven to bake'.

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

Yes I do. With a class of 7 children I try to identify what each child enjoys most and set the play activities accordingly. By doing this I know that no child will get bored during play time or feel left out while the other learners enjoy. I also encourage the learners to take part in different play activities and try to make each activity fun and exciting.

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

By setting up activities which they enjoy and by making each activity as exciting as possible. Activities that are chosen are fun and exciting activities for the children. Singing songs and cheering them on during activities help a lot too.

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

Playroom learning starts off with free play where children enhance their fine motor skills, problem solving, social skills, sensory development etc. Learning numbers with flashcards and using their fingers to count. Learning shapes and colours with visual learning as well as during free play. Using work sheets to colour in, visual perception to identify size, colour, odd one out, etc. And story book time.

Playground learning includes mainly gross motor as well as some fine motor development. Climbing up the ladder, jumping, running, kicking a ball, etc all helps in developing their gross motor skills.

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

I set up the environment in a way where most of the equipment like blocks, puzzles, play dough, beading activities etc are easily accessible for the children. The children know that play dough and puzzles for example should be played with at the tables and blocks and other building activities should be played on the carpet. We've also set up a little reading corner with story books and a little art corner with all the art equipment.

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

Picture 4 where the educator is with the children in a play group because when you involve your child in active playing or learning they learn more than when it only includes audio or visual learning or being alone. Teachers can guide the children and children tend to listen more to teachers rather than their own parents.

A play group is a great way for children to learn because there are many skills which they benefit in and they learn a lot with their teacher and their friends.

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

Not really. Because children learn through every aspect of life and they grow through experience... If they don't experience something they will never know what to expect out of a situation.