

## Parent 6, Responses to Questionnaire – Parents' and Teachers'

### Questionnaire : Parents perceptions of play and learning in the early years (3/4-year old's)

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

Play which is independent and self-driven (including fantasy and exploratory / imaginative play). Physical play. Some forms of structured play conducive to the development of literacy skills (through reading) play which begins enculturating children into the real world, conducive to developing social skills (eg cooperative behaviour)

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

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.

3. Do you consider play as learning ? Explain

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.

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

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

At this particular age I believe that play and learning are inextricably linked. They are both equally important for a holistic development.

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

Yes I do, this can be done in a structured manner. I believe play is a very natural form of learning.

7. Does your child like to play? Why?

He does enjoy play. He is an immensely curious child, he is curious about everything around him including social structures and behaviors, nature, how things work or 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.

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

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 thought processes, 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 hypermasculinity / toys which contradict values we are trying to inculcate. We would generally provide him with a list of options which are appropriate, beneficial, provide open-ended play and encouraging imaginative thinking and emotional intelligence. Examples of these include Lego, Leapfrog products, trains and play-dough.

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

By finding ways to associate activities with what he is most interested in / fascinated by at that point in time

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

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 to all things also asking questions, not necessarily geared at soliciting a response but rather to get him thinking

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

We currently utilize our garage as a space for play / learning



We have set-up of tables and chairs as well as necessary stationery, map with alphabet in various colors, a book corner, chalkboard and an assortment of educational toys / most utilized toys

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

I am unable to choose any one particular picture as I believe that each of these pictures depict events / exercises which are equally important, and when combined are conducive to the most beneficial learning process / experience as well as the holistic development of the child

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

I do as mentioned above toys which in any way encourage hypermasculinity, rough play, violence, solitude or in any way compromises the emotional intelligence of the child or glamorizes negative behaviors (violence, or chauvinism etc.) Examples of toys we don't encourage / buy superhero themed toys, toy guns / weapons of any sort, monster trucks.