

## Teacher 4 part A(Q1-6), Responses to Questionnaire – Parents' and Teachers' Understanding and Practices of Play and Learning

Questionnaire : Practitioners 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 IS THE WORK OF CHILDREN. IT CONSISTS OF THOSE ACTIVITIES PERFORMED FOR SELF-AMUSMENT THAT HAVE BEHAVIORAL, SOCIAL AND PSYCOMOTOR REWARDS. IT IS CHILD-DIRECTED, AND THE REWARDS COME FROM WITHIN THE INDIVIDUAL CHILD; IT IS ENJOYABLE AND SPONTANEOUS. THROUGH THE PHENOMENON OF PLAY, CHILDREN DEVELOP AND LEARN IN ACTIVITIES IN EVERY AREA OF THE CLASSROOM. PLAY AFFORDS CHILDREN THE ABILITY TO IMPROVE THEIR LANGUAGE, SOCIAL, PHYSICAL, MATH, SCIENCE AND THINKING SKILLS. THE DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF THESE SKILLS PROMOTE THEIR SELF-ESTEEM. IT ALLOWS CHILDREN TO USE THEIR CREATIVITY WHILE DEVELOPING THEIR IMAGINATION, DEXTERITY, AND PHYSICAL (COGNITIVE, AND EMOTIONAL) STRENGTH. PLAY IS IMPORTANT TO HEALTHY BRAIN DEVELOPMENT. IN COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT CHILDREN WHO ENGAGE IN PRETEND PLAY TEND TO HAVE HIGH LEVELS OF INTERACTION WITH OTHERS. IT ALSO ENCOURAGES RELATIONSHIP BUILDING. PLAY SHOULD BE MEANINGFUL AND FUN. IT SHOULD BE SPONTANEOUS, FLEXIBLE AND CREATIVE.

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

SOMETIMES ENGAGING TODDLERS AND PRESCHOOLERS MIGHT SEEM AS COMPLICATED AS 'HERDING CATS'. NOT

ONLY DO THEY HAVE TONS OF ENERGY BUT THEY ALSO VERY OPINIONATED. HOW DO YOU ENGAGE A CHILD WHOSE FAVORITE WORD IS "NO" AND FAVORITE QUESTION IS "WHY?" BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IT CAN BE DONE!

THE KEY IS TO USE THEIR ENERGY AND OPINIONATED NATURE TO YOUR ADVANTAGE. THESE ARE DIFFERENT WAYS TO HELP HARNESS THE ENERGY OF YOUNG LEARNERS.

1. KEEP IT SHORT - THE AVERAGE ATTENTION SPAN OF 3-4 YEAR OLD IS AROUND 8-10 MIN. BECAUSE YOUNG CHILDREN CAN'T FOCUS FOR TOO LONG. IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE TIME YOU HAVE.
2. MAKE IT HAND ON - YOUNG CHILDREN LOVE TO GET THEIR HANDS ON EVERYTHING. TOUCH IS ONE OF THE WAYS THEY EXPERIENCE THE WORLD.
3. GET MOVING - PARTS OF THEIR BODY ARE ALL CONNECTED.
4. REPEAT IT - REPEATING INFORMATION HELPS CHILDREN LEARN AND HELPS THEM BUILD THEIR CONFIDENCE.
5. INVOLVE RHYTHM - ADDING RHYTHM IS ANOTHER WAY TO HELP CHILDREN TAKE IN INFORMATION.
6. OFFER GUIDANCE.
7. GIVE THEM A TASK TO DO
8. TELL A STORY
9. USE COLOR - COLOR MAKES LEARNING EXCITING!

3. Do you consider play as learning? Explain

YES! PLAY IS FAR MORE POWERFUL FOR CHILDREN, HOWEVER, THAN MANY PARENTS REALIZE. IT'S ACTUALLY THE KEY TO LEARNING. PLAY CAN HELP ENRICH LEARNING AND DEVELOP KEY SKILLS SUCH AS INQUIRY, EXPRESSION, EXPERIMENTATION, AND TEAMWORK. PLAY IS THE CENTRAL INGREDIENT IN LEARNING.

ALLOWING CHILDREN TO IMITATE ADULT BEHAVIORS  
PRACTICE MOTOR-SKILLS, PROCESS EMOTIONAL EVENTS,  
AND LEARN MUCH MORE ABOUT THEIR WORLD.  
ONE THING PLAY IS NOT, IS FRIVOLOUS.  
PLAY IS A VITAL PART ~~OF~~ OF A CHILD'S OPTIMAL  
SOCIAL, COGNITIVE, PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT. PLAY PROVIDES A STRONG FOUNDATION  
FOR INTELLECTUAL GROWTH, CREATIVITY, PROBLEM-  
SOLVING AND BASIC ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE.  
PLAY IS NECESSARY FOR A CHILD TO LEARN.  
LEARNING IS REMEMBERING AND UNDERSTANDING.  
LEARNING OCCURS WHEN A CHILD MAKES SENSE  
OF THEIR EXPERIENCES. IT ALLOWS THEM TO  
EXPRESS THEMSELVES, THEY LEARN TO EXPRESS  
THEIR FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS, AND WORK  
THROUGH THEIR CONFLICTS.

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

PLAY IS CRUCIAL IN A CHILD'S OVERALL DEVELOPMENT  
THAN ACADEMIC TRAINING. IT IS ALSO FAR MORE  
VALUABLE FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL GROWTH. PLAY  
ALLOWS CHILDREN TO USE THEIR CREATIVITY WHILE  
DEVELOPING THEIR IMAGINATION, DEXTERITY, AND  
PHYSICAL, COGNITIVE, AND EMOTIONAL STRENGTH. PLAY  
IS IMPORTANT TO HEALTHY BRAIN DEVELOPMENT. IT  
IS THROUGH PLAY THAT CHILDREN AT A VERY  
EARLY AGE ENGAGE AND INTERACT IN THE  
~~WORLD~~ WORLD AROUND THEM.  
LONG-TERM IMPACTS OF PLAY DEPRIVATION DURING  
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT INCLUDE ISOLATION,  
DEPRESSION, REDUCED SELF-CONTROL AND POOR



RESILIENCE.... INTERGENERATIONAL PLAY AND FAMILY GAMES ARE ALSO IN DECLINE. ACADEMIC LEARNING DOES NOT TEACH SOCIAL SKILLS. STRUCTURED AND UNSTRUCTURED PLAY TEACHES SOCIAL SKILLS. TIME PLAYING AND MOVING OUTDOORS HAS BEEN PROVEN TO IMPROVE A PERSON'S EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING.

5. Do you think learning is more important than play? Why? NO

PLAY IS FAR MORE POWERFUL FOR CHILDREN, HOWEVER THAN MANY PARENTS REALIZE. IT IS ACTUALLY THE KEY TO LEARNING. PLAY CAN HELP ENRICH LEARNING AND DEVELOP KEY SKILLS SUCH AS

- 1) INQUIRY
- 2) EXPRESSION
- 3) EXPERIMENTATION
- 4) TEAMWORK.

AS AN EDUCATOR I LOVE TO SEE HOW CHILDREN PLAY. IT'S INCREDIBLE TO HEAR THEIR IDEAS AND TO LEARN ABOUT THE NEW WORLDS THEY CREATE. IT'S ALSO FUN TO SEE HOW CREATIVE THEY CAN BE AS THEY PUT THEIR IMAGINATION TO USE IN LEARNING, ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND THEM.

SCHOOLS THAT USE THE MONTESSORI EDUCATION

FOCUS ON ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO LEARN THROUGH ~~PLAY~~. 'MEANINGFUL PLAY'.

MEANINGFUL PLAY HAS FIVE CHARACTERISTIC: IT

1. GIVES THE ~~CH~~ CHILD A CHOICE ABOUT WHAT HE OR SHE WANTS.
2. FEELS FUN AND ENJOYABLE FOR THE CHILD.
3. EVOLVES SPONTANEOUSLY RATHER THAN GIVING KIDS A SCRIPT TO FOLLOW
4. IS DRIVEN BY INTRINSIC MOTIVATION ABOUT WHAT CHILDREN WANT TO DO
5. CREATES A RISK-FREE ENVIRONMENT WHERE KIDS CAN EXPERIMENT AND TRY NEW IDEAS.

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

YOUNG CHILDREN LEARN IN QUITE DIFFERENT WAYS [THAN ADULTS]. THEY LEARN BY COMPARING PHYSICAL EXPERIENCES, BY INTERACTION WITH OTHER PEOPLE AND THEIR OWN FEELINGS. ~~THEY~~ THEY LEARN AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT THROUGH THEIR IMAGINATION. PLAY IS WHAT PULLS TOGETHER THE LOGICAL AND CREATIVE PARTS OF THE BRAIN. IN AN ACADEMIC SETTING LEARN THROUGH PLAY HELPS CHILDREN LEARN AND GROW. AS AN EDUCATOR I PERSONALLY ENFORCE PLAY AS A PART OF THE LEARNING PROLESS. AS AN EDUCATOR I ENCOURAGE GUIDE LEARNING BUT DO SO PLAYFULLY AND LOOSELY WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON THE GOALS. WHEN TAKING A PLAY-BASED APPROACH TO COMBINING DIFFERENT SUBJECTS, ~~IT~~ I'VE FOUND THAT ONE CAN CREATE AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE GREATER THAN ~~BE~~ THE SUM OF IT'S PARTS.