

Why We “Play” in Pre-kindergarten

“Play is how children learn what no one can teach them.” –Lawrence Frank

Play is children’s work. Many studies document the importance of active learning. Through play, children are learning to make choices and decisions for themselves. Through play, all facets of development are enhanced. Most importantly, while working in centers children learn to get along, solve problems and explore the world around them! Here are some of the learnings that occur in “play” activities:

Fingerplays, Songs, and Silly Rhymes:

- Develops phonemic awareness which is vital to success in reading
 - Develops oral language
 - Children are able to remember things taught through rhyme and song faster and easier
- *Ask your child about color rhymes!

Block Building

- Builds math and science concepts such as:
 - Geometry and Spatial Relations
 - Balance
 - Gravity
 - Stability
- Encourages problem solving and oral language development
- Helps with gross motor development
- Develops classification skills

Housekeeping

- Develops early writing behaviors (messages by phone, grocery lists for refrigerator)
- The phone is used to help develop what to do in emergencies (911)
- Increases language development and communication skills
- Builds problem solving strategies
- Role-playing-“trying on life”

Reading/Writing

- Develops emergent literacy
- Allows children to hear stories being “retold” which helps to build reading comprehension
- Develops print concepts ~ front and back of books, left to right, one-to-one word matching, turning pages, voice-print match, return sweep.
- Vocabulary development
- Develops listening skills

Painting

- Creative expression
- Builds reading comprehension when illustrating story parts
- Gross motor development
- Develops spatial abilities

Puzzles

- Develops fine motor skills which helps children develop strength in fingers for writing
- Develops spatial sense
- Increases the development of problem solving abilities
- Increases concentration

Math and Science Manipulatives

- Develops concepts of number
- Develops concepts of classification
- Concepts of geometry
- Concepts of measurement
- Ability to create patterns
- Ability to problem solve

Globalization. Innovation. Graduation.