

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

WHY PLAY?

- Play is how children learn new skills.
- Play builds the brain and helps form important neural connections.
- Play skills are the foundation for all other developmental skills including language, physical development, and problem-solving.

FOUR GUIDELINES FOR PLAY

F Floor

F Follow their lead

F Face-to-face

F Facilitate turn-taking

THE DEVELOPMENT OF PLAY SKILLS



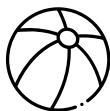
EXPLORATORY PLAY

Plays by using their senses and moving their body.
Ex: reaching for toys, mouthing toys, shaking, and banging

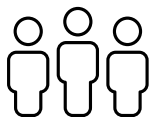


RELATIONAL AND FUNCTIONAL PLAY

RELATIONAL PLAY: Combines objects in play.
Ex: drum and sticks, spoon and bowl, hammer and pegs



FUNCTIONAL PLAY: Uses objects for their intended purpose.
Ex: rolls a ball, stacks blocks, hugs a baby doll



SYMBOLIC PLAY

Uses objects to represent unrelated items in play.
Ex: blocks are food, broom is a horse



ROLE PLAY

Takes on a character or pretends to be another person.
Ex: pretending to be mommy, superman, a dinosaur