

Child Development - Component 2 - Learning Through Play

Aim A - Understand How Children Play

Stages of children's play

0 – 3 months

Unoccupied play - Movements with arms, legs, hands, feet etc., learning how their muscles move.

0 – 2 years

Solitary play - A child plays alone.

2 years

Spectator/onlooker play - A child watches other children play but does not play with them.

2+ years

Parallel play - A child plays alongside or near others but does not play with them.

3 – 4 years

Associative play - A child starts to interact with others during play but there is not a large amount of interaction.

4+ years

Co-operative play - A child interacts fully with others and has interest in both the activity and other children involved.

How play can be organised to promote learning

Adult Led Play

The adult plans, organises and leads the children in a play activity, e.g. playing peek-a-boo with babies, cooking, and gardening.

Adult Initiated Play

The adult puts out resources and toys that prompts children to play in a certain way, e.g. hiding coins in a sand tray to support counting.

Child Initiated Play

Children choose resources and how to play with them, e.g. making available a wide range of toys, equipment and sensory materials for children to self-serve without asking permission.

Aim B - Demonstrate How Children's Learning Can Be Supported Through Play

Physical play and learning - Learning through physical play

- Spatial awareness
- Activities to stay healthy
- How to take care of yourself
- Gross motor skills – body management, strength, bodily coordination
- Fine motor control – accuracy and manipulation of objects

Cognitive and intellectual play and learning - Learning promoted through cognitive and intellectual play

- Problem-solving skills
- Creativity
- Use of imagination
- Listening and attention skills
- Numeracy skills
- Exploration of environments inside and outside

Communication and language play and learning - Learning through communication and language play

- Listening skills – including refining speech sounds through interaction with others
- Vocabulary and literacy skills, including speaking and questioning skills
- How to express and discuss feelings appropriately
- Books – lift-the-flap books, textured, stories, talking books, story sacks

Social play and learning - Learning through social play

- Development of friendships and relationships
- Sharing, turn taking, compromise
- Understanding of culture and values

Emotional play and learning - Learning through emotional play

- Expression of feelings, including teaching children how to self-manage feelings
- and behaviours
- Promote independence
- Improve self-confidence, self-esteem and self-awareness

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Key Words	Career Paths	Career Skills
<p>Play Solitary Spectator Milestone Development Acquisition Fine motor skills Gross motor skills Cognition Transition Bonding Imaginative Role play Influence Safety Resources Activities Child centred Equipment Health and safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech and language Therapist • Early Years Teacher • Primary School Teacher • Secondary School Teacher • Play Coordinator • Nursery Manager • Early Years Consultant • And many more.... 	<p>You need to be prepared to take risks and try new things particularly in education.</p> <p>You need to be aware of a child's safety at all times, even when working with large groups of children.</p> <p>You will be aware of lots of personal information about the children you work with, and you must treat this with the utmost respect</p> <p>Working with children can be tiring and sometimes difficult – you need to be patient and persistent.</p> <p>In this career pathway you will work with a team of individuals who will be trying to give children the best start in life.</p> <p>In this career you will constantly be reflecting upon the success or otherwise of the strategies you used to help children to develop.</p> <p>You will evaluate how well children are developing, and how you can improve this.</p> <p>You will write reports to parents and other professionals about children in your care.</p> <p>You will plot data on charts and graphs and use these to make decisions about how well children are developing.</p>
	<h3 style="margin: 0;">Key Questions</h3>	
	<p>Do children need teachers?</p> <p>How do you define play?</p> <p>What are the benefits of child-initiated play?</p> <p>How can adults make play fun?</p> <p>How does play lead to learning?</p> <p>If a child doesn't have toys, does this mean they won't learn anything?</p>	