

Play Your Way to Literacy



Putting the Pieces Together

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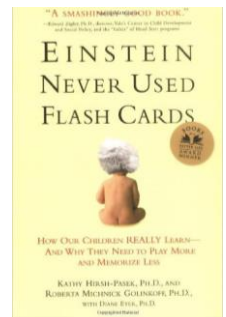
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The Value of Play – Supported by Research

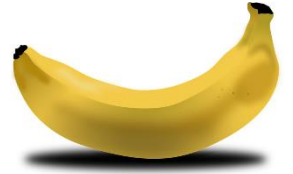
- “Hands on, minds on, feelings on” experiences are the foundation for the development of symbolic understanding
- Direct, hands-on experience
 - Stimulates language
 - Leads to understanding
 - Allows the formation of symbolic thought
 - Involves multiple pathways in the brain
 - Holds the power of DISCOVERY learning
- Dr. Stuart Brown, founder of the National Institute of Play, says play has seven properties:
 - Apparently purposeless (done for its own sake)
 - Voluntary
 - Inherent attraction
 - Freedom from time
 - Diminished consciousness of self
 - Improvisational potential
 - Continuation desire



Developmental Tips are Tools to Help Parents and Caregivers

A few short and simple sentences with 3 parts

1. **WHAT?** – Identifies what the action is
2. **WHY?** – Tells parents why it is important
3. **HOW?** – Explains how it might be replicated at home



Ages and Stages



- From birth to 12 months, children use ALL of their senses
- From 12-24 months, children build relationships and discover what their bodies can do.
- From 24 – 36 months, children learn problem solving.
- At age three, children participate in pretend play.
- From 3-5, the world of play expands.

Storytime/Circle Time builds early literacy skills

Six Skills that help children become ready to learn to read:

- Print awareness
- Letter knowledge
- Phonological awareness
- Vocabulary
- Narrative skills
- Print motivation



Five practices that help children become ready to learn:

- Talk
- Sing
- Read
- Write
- Play

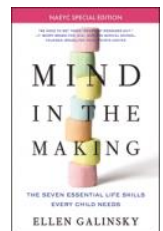
21st Century Skills

- Creativity & innovation
- Complex communication
- Critical thinking & problem solving
- Collaboration
- Flexibility & adaptability
- Initiative & self-direction
- Social & cross-cultural skills
- Productivity & Accountability
- Leadership & responsibility
- Global awareness
- Literacies:
 - Visual literacy
 - Scientific and numerical literacy
 - Basic literacy
 - Information, technology, & media literacy
 - Civic literacy
 - Health literacy
 - Environmental literacy
 - Financial, economic, business & entrepreneurial literacy

Seven Essential Skills Every Child Needs

Mind in the Making – Ellen Galinsky

1. Focus and self-control
2. Perspective taking
3. Communicating
4. Making connections
5. Critical thinking
6. Taking on challenges
7. Self-directed, engaged learning



Different types of play can strengthen a variety of skills and lead to literacy.

- Physical play (adding movement)



- Competitive play



- Puppet play



- Arts and crafts play



- Music play



- Constructive play



- STEM play



Soakers

- Diffusion butterflies



- Floam



- Bag of wonder



- Rapunzel's Hair Styling Salon



- What's inside



- Making snow
(<http://www.thinkgeek.com/product/79ea/?cpg=cj&ref=&CJURL=&CJID=1215086>)



- Moving Molecules

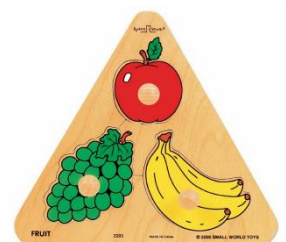


- Soakers with books



Different types of play can strengthen a variety of skills and lead to literacy (cont.)

- Book play
 - Matching books with activities
 - Making an environment based on a book
- Role-playing, storytelling, and fantasy play
 - Scarf play
- Digital Media Play
 - The Conversational Duet
 - Guided Play



Lack of play

Risky play involves:

- Goal-setting
- Determination
- Persistence
- Coordination
- Strong muscles
- Conquering fear
- Learning through mistakes
- Building sense of competence & self-confidence



Playground equipment then and now



Suggestions for Improving Children’s Play Experiences

1. Nurturing environment
2. Scaffolding / guided play
 - New knowledge builds on previous learning.
3. Engage parents via developmental tips and written prompts
4. Take inventory of your space for play opportunities and make the most of it
5. Keep it inclusive!

What is “Learning” according to Mr. Rogers?

- Self-esteem
- Sense of trust
- Capacity to look & listen carefully
- Curiosity
- Capacity to play
- Times of solitude

Scaffolding and Guided Play

- New knowledge builds on previous learning.
- Ideal learning takes place when adults look at where children are and then **scaffold** them!
- Developmental Tips are helpful
- Be Intentional
- Engage Parents

Practical Tips for Adding More Play