

Learning through Play and Natural Investigation



Information for families supporting learning at home

“Learning through play is supported by early years experts. Lev Vygotsky identified play as the leading source of development in terms of emotional, social, physical, language, or cognitive development. Psychologist David Elkind that “play is not only our creative drive; it’s a fundamental mode of learning.”³ Such experts recognize that play and academic work are not distinct categories for young children: creating, doing, and learning are inextricably linked. When children are engaged in purposeful play, they are discovering, creating, improvising, and expanding their learning.” Excerpt from [CMEC Statement on Play-Based Learning](#).

PLAY in Early Learning is always purposeful. This is the work of your child. Using the curriculum and embedding it through PLAY, is a developmentally appropriate approach used for teaching and learning in our Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms.

Each day your classroom teachers and team members set out thought provoking activities and different areas in the room where children can learn new vocabulary, and new play skills.

From the outside looking in, it may have seemed that your child's play was chaotic but the materials set out and the questions asked during their play were well thought out and intentional.

We are always challenging theories and ideas that the children may have, promoting critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Our teams would sit together and reflect on the children's interests and inquiries and plan together provocations that would foster and further their explorations within the classroom.

We were constantly reflecting and thinking about how to plan for the different learning styles of each child in the classroom.

Open ended exploration and the use of focused practice activities help the child through the:

- development of language skills
- development of fine motor skills (ex) pincer grasp
- development of gross motor skills
- development of social and emotional regulation skills

This is why we say PLAY IS A CHILD'S WORK, because they often have no idea that while at play they are actually working on building these important skills.



Please do not be afraid of allowing your child to play through the use of the resources and tools provided from your school/classroom teacher.

As you can see, a colander is being used to thread pipe cleaners and form them in a variety of shapes, promoting their fine motor development, hand strength, development of visual motor skills.