

play



at the heart of learning

This booklet is designed for parents, caregivers and educators to support young children's learning through play.

Each page shows what children learn when they play with different materials at a variety of activities .

Play Dough

When I use play dough, I am learning to . . .

- experiment
- share
- handle different textures and tools
- build strength in my hand muscles
- create different sizes and shapes
- develop hand-eye coordination



Puppets

When I play with puppets, I am learning to . . .

- work cooperatively with others
- plan, organize and practice
- be creative
- express my ideas
- communicate through creative storytelling
- role play to explore character and emotion
- take risks
- perform



Sand/Water Exploration

When I play with sand/water, I am learning to . . .

- use and control my hand muscles
- explore texture
- ask questions and solve problems
- estimate, measure and compare
- share my ideas and cooperate with others
- experience and gain understanding about my world



Science Exploration

**When I engage in scientific exploration,
I am learning to...**

- predict and observe
- ask questions, explore and compare
- solve problems and make conclusions
- experience and gain understanding about my world
- discover how things work
- take risks



Puzzles

When I play with puzzles, I am learning to . . .

- problem solve
- pattern and sequence
- recognize colours
- concentrate
- use my fingers to develop my fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination
- explore spatial orientation
- be patient and persevere



Dramatic Play

When I play dress-up and pretend to be someone else, I am learning to . . .

- play cooperatively with others
- make decisions and solve problems in peaceful ways
- be responsible
- be creative and use my imagination
- experience and gain understanding about my world
- share and take turns
- speak and listen
- role play



Art

When I create art projects, I am learning to...

- be creative
- problem solve independently and with others
- explore and handle different textures, shapes, sizes and materials
- use my fine motor skills
- appreciate art work
- use tools
- experiment with colour, line and shape
- represent what is known from experience
- take risks



Drawing and Writing Centre

When I am drawing or writing, I am learning to...

- experiment with print
- represent my ideas in a variety of ways
- use literacy related materials
- recognize some letters and words
- explore the purpose and function of written language
- take risks



Blocks

When I build with blocks, I am learning to...

- build with my hands to improve my gross and fine motor coordination
- compare sizes and shapes
- sort, classify and count
- share and work cooperatively
- try out my ideas and problem solve
- use my imagination



Listening Centre

**When I listen to music and recorded stories,
I am learning to . . .**

- listen attentively
- appreciate music, literature, and poetry
- read, left to right and top to bottom (concepts of print)
- develop auditory memory for sounds, letters, and words
- track words (point with finger)



Games Centre

When I play with games, I am learning to...

- strategize and problem solve
- recognize patterns and sequences
- count and develop number concept
- concentrate
- play cooperatively with others
- be patient and persevere
- take risks



Library

When I use our library, I am learning to . . .

- listen to stories
- talk about my ideas
- create pictures in my mind
- imagine
- ask questions
- recognize some letters and words



- make connections to what I already know
- tell a story from the pictures
- hold a book and turn the pages correctly