

When I Play, I Learn

WHEN I PLAY WITH SAND I AM LEARNING:

- to exercise my imagination.
- concepts of size, shape and volume, empty and full.
- how to use tools.
- to solve problems.
- concepts of warm and cool, wet, damp and dry, heavy and light.
- how to play socially with others.
- to create systems for classifying, ordering and arranging, skills later used in math.
- to create my own patterns and symbols, skill later used in reading and writing.
- to observe change, a science skill.

WHEN I PLAY WITH LETTER GAMES I AM LEARNING:

- to recognize and name upper case and lower case letters.
- to associate letters with sounds they represent.
- to recognize my name and certain words.

WHEN I PLAY ON RIDING TOYS I AM LEARNING:

- strength, balance and coordination of large muscles of legs, torso and arms.
- to use my energy in a constructive way.
- concepts of speed, direction and location.
- to use my imagination as I pretend to be different characters and make noises.
- to negotiate and take turns.
- to solve problems.
- self-confidence as I master new skills.

WHEN I PAINT AT THE EASEL I AM LEARNING:

- to develop my imagination and creativity.
- eye-hand coordination, helpful for learning to write.
- the names of colors and how to make new colors.
- to distinguish shapes, and purposely create shapes.
- to notice patterns from background, necessary for learning to read.
- to express my feelings and ideas and that my ideas have value.
- relationships of space and size, necessary for mathematics.
- concepts of symmetry, balance and design.

WHEN I USE PASTE, GLUE AND COLLAGE MATERIALS I AM LEARNING:

- to exercise my imagination and creativity.
- concepts of shape, size, location and design, relevant to learning to read.
- about things that are sticky and things that have different textures.
- how to create patterns and designs, a math skill.
- to distinguish patterns from background, a reading skill.

WHEN I USE SCISSORS I AM LEARNING:

to control the small muscles of my hand.
concepts of shape, size, color and location.
to exercise my imagination and creativity.

WHEN I SORT THINGS I AM LEARNING:

to notice details and likenesses and differences in objects and form categories,
essential concepts for reading and mathematics.
concepts of color, size and shape.
numerical concepts of more and less.
logical reasoning

WHEN I STRING BEADS I AM LEARNING:

eye-hand coordination.
concepts of color, shape and location.
number concepts, as well as more, less, longer and shorter.
to create and reproduce patterns.
pride in accomplishments.

WHEN I PLAY ON CLIMBING EQUIPMENT I AM LEARNING:

self-confidence as I develop new skills.
physical strength, coordination and balance.
to use my imagination.
to cooperate with others when involved in some dramatic play.
to solve problems.

WHEN I PLAY WITH PLAYDOUGH OR CLAY I AM LEARNING:

to see the shape against the background of the table, a reading skill.
concepts of shapes, relative sizes, big, small, etc., length, height.
it see negative space when cookie cutter shapes are taken away.
to express feelings, squeezing and pounding.
to exercise my imagination and creativity.
that the amount of substance remains the same, even when the shape changes.

WHEN I FINGER-PAINT I AM LEARNING:

to exercise my imagination and creativity.
about how colors mix to form new colors.
concepts of shape, size and location.
eye-hand coordination.
an acceptable way to make a mess, and fun sharing ideas with others who are near.

WHEN I EXAMINE OBJECTS IN THE SENSORY BIN I AM LEARNING:

new vocabulary.
concepts of texture, color, weight, size, etc.
to group objects into categories, and observe likenesses and differences.
to appreciate nature and develop a sense of wonder.

WHEN I SCRIBBLE AND DRAW I AM LEARNING:

to hold a pencil or other drawing implement and to control the pressure.
eye-hand coordination.
to exercise my creativity and imagination.
that my ideas have value.
concepts of color, shape, size and location.
sometimes to express myself with words to describe my drawing.

WHEN I AM PLAYING WITH WATER I AM LEARNING:

that some things sink and some things float
to observe changes as water takes different form in different containers.
about different temperatures.
about wet, dry, and evaporation.
what happens when you add soap.
eye-hand coordination as I learn to pour.
concepts of empty and full.
volume and weight, relevant to mathematics.