



*Play is the
highest form
of research.*

-Albert Einstein



For Additional Information on Play:

<http://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/child-development/10-things-every-parent-should-know-about-play>

http://www.childaction.org/families/publications/docs/guidance/Handout13-The_Importance_of_Play.pdf

<http://www.ebay.com/gds/7-Reasons-Why-Pretend-Play-Is-Good-for-Children-/10000000177633904/g.html>

The Power of Play



Enfield Public Schools



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*Children need the freedom
and the time to play.
Play is not a luxury.
Play is a necessity.*

- K. Redfield Jaimeson

The Importance of Play

Decades of research tells us that play is an essential part of children's healthy growth and development. Early childhood experts have long agreed that young children who are provided with rich play-based learning environments excel in all domains of development and learning. Play helps children increase their memory, critical thinking skills, self-regulation, social skills, oral language skills, literacy skills, mathematical and problem-solving skills, and lays the foundation for all academic learning (Gullo, 2006; Copple and Bredekamp, 2009). Play is truly the indispensable work of children.

Adapted from the North Carolina Public Schools



The beauty of this learning and growing is that the motivation for a young child to play is already there— it is enjoyable.

-Child Action, Inc.



Play can be a bonding time between parents and children. Parents are their children's first and best playmates. Many children enjoy the following learning activities at home:

- Playing board games and card games
- Visiting playgrounds
- Creating arts and craft projects
- Playing with water, sand, bubbles and sidewalk chalk
- Exploring the outdoors
- Playing make-believe alone or with friends
- Singing and dancing
- Going to the library

Play at Home

There is a balance between child-initiated play and teacher-guided learning activities. The teacher provides large blocks of time for child-initiated play. Most teaching and learning is play-based, hands-on and occurs in small groups.

Teachers intentionally interact with children while they are engaged in play to guide their thinking and support learning.

Curriculum is integrated across subjects and throughout the day and supports all areas of development – physical, emotional, social, cognitive, language and literacy and approaches to learning.

The Playful Classroom

Children are playing and working with materials and with other children and not sitting for long periods of time doing seat work. During this time they have access to a variety of open-ended materials throughout the day including blocks, art supplies, books, writing materials, dramatic play props, math manipulatives, materials for science and inquiry, equipment for gross motor movement, etc.

Children are provided time every day to play outside if weather permits and outdoor play is never given up to add more instructional time .