



Importance of Play

Play is how children learn best. It is through play that a child develops in the important areas of feeling and connecting, sensing and moving, listening and talking, and thinking and remembering.

Dramatic Play

- ◆ Dramatic play is pretending or make believe.
- ◆ During dramatic play, children develop many important skills such as language & social skills.
- ◆ Examples: dolls, animals, play food & dishes, puppets, vehicles, and dress up.

Games

- ◆ Simple games are ideal for non-readers and reinforce matching, counting, observation, color and shape recognition and concentration skills.
- ◆ Examples: Candy Land, Chutes and Ladders, Hi Ho Cherry-O, and Memory.

Gross Motor

- ◆ Gross motor toys support physical development; this includes coordination, balance, cooperative play, throwing and catching skills.
- ◆ Examples: parachute play, balls, stilts and jump ropes.

Infant/Toddler Toys

- ◆ Infant/toddlers toys should be easy to grab, turn, poke, stack, throw, and drop.
- ◆ Toys that provide an opportunity to learn about cause and effect stimulates infant/toddler brain development.
- ◆ Examples: stacking toys, discovery boxes, activity rattles, and sorting cubes.

Manipulatives

- ◆ Manipulatives engage children because they try to figure out how different objects work and what they can do with them. They encourage creativity, math skills, finger grasping, and hand-eye coordination. This will help to improve writing skills.
- ◆ Examples: blocks, stringing beads, Lincoln logs, gears, and marble run.

Musical Instruments

- ◆ Music's melodic and rhythmic patterns provides stimulation and exercise for the brain and helps to develop memory.
- ◆ Music evokes movement, creativity, and encourages listening and language skills.
- ◆ Examples: Maracas, drums, rhythm sticks, tambourines, musical scarves, and rhythm ribbons.

Puzzles

- ◆ Puzzles help promote fine motor and problem solving skills.
- ◆ Examples: Select large knob puzzles for easy grasping for little hands or floor puzzles to challenge older children.

Science

- ◆ Science toys can engage children's sense of inquiry, stimulate their imagination, and encourages exploration.
- ◆ Examples: magnifiers, magnetic discovery board, color paddles, and binoculars.



Supporting children, families and the child care community of Yolo County by providing information, education, resources and financial support. Child Care Services provides Subsidized Child Care, Resource & Referral Services, Provider and Parent Training, and Community Outreach.

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