

# The Value of Play

## **WHEN YOUR CHILD PLAYS AT THE SENSORY TABLE:**

- \*He explores math concepts such as size and measurement.
- \*He discovers science concepts such as volume, floating & sinking.
- \*He is not frustrated because he is not concerned with a final product.
- \*He finds it soothing to bury his hands in sand or pour water in & out of cups.



## **WHEN YOUR CHILD PLAYS IN THE DRAMATIC PLAY AREA:**

- \*She understands what it feels like to play at being somebody other than self.
- \*She learns how to use her imagination and think abstractly.
- \*She learns how to cooperate with other children.
- \*She develops new vocabulary.
- \*She recalls and recreates life experiences.



## **WHEN YOUR CHILD USES TECHNOLOGY AND/OR COMPUTERS:**

- \*He understands that machines can help him learn.
- \*He practices hand-eye coordination.
- \*He has an opportunity to reinforce reading, writing, and math skills.
- \*He learns how to express his ideas and share his ideas with others.



### **WHEN YOUR CHILD EXPLORES IN THE DISCOVERY AREA:**

- \*She explores, investigates, observes, experiments and predicts just like a real scientist.
- \*She learns to wonder and ask questions about the world around her.
- \*She learns to solve problems and communicate her findings.
- \*She discovers that there is science all around us.



### **WHEN YOUR CHILD LISTENS TO STORIES OR LOOKS AT BOOKS:**

- \*He learns about different concepts, people and places.
- \*H learns to enjoy books and reading.
- \*He has an opportunity to increase his vocabulary by hearing new words read to him.
- \*He learns to listen.
- \*His mind is stimulated, visualizing the things he is hearing about.



### **WHEN YOUR CHILD COOKS OR PREPARES A SNACK:**

- \*She learns to recognize colors and shapes from different kinds of foods and kitchen utensils.
- \*She has an opportunity to use different tools and equipment to improve small muscle coordination.
- \*She learns to follow directions.
- \*She stimulates and uses all five senses.



### **WHEN YOUR CHLD PARTICIPATES IN MUSIC AND MOVEMENT:**

- \*He learns to appreciate music from different countries, cultures and time periods.
- \*He gains satisfaction from participating in an activity that can be fun, physical, and/or enriching.
- \*He learns to express himself and his ideas.
- \*He increases his vocabulary.



### **WHEN YOUR CHILD WORKS WITH PUZZLES, TOYS AND GAMES:**

- \*She has an opportunity to work alone or together with other children.
- \*She builds her self-confidence upon completing a task.
- \*She improves her hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills.
- \*She explores new concepts, practices emerging skills, and reinforces skills already mastered.
- \*She learns about classifying, sorting, predicting, problem solving and analyzing.



### **WHEN YOUR CHILD BUILDS WITH BLOCKS:**

- \*He learns to use his imagination.
- \*He learns how to solve a problem.
- \*He learns to play with others.
- \*He learns about sizes and shapes, weights and balances, height and depth, smoothness and roughness.



### **WHEN YOUR CHILD PLAYS IN THE ART CENTER:**

- \*She learns about colors, shapes, sizes and textures.
- \*She learns to use her imagination and express her feelings.
- \*She develops small muscle coordination.
- \*She learns to make choices and decisions.
- \*She is more concerned with the process she is going through than with a finished product.



### **WHEN YOUR CHILD PLAYS OUTDOORS:**

- \*He learns how to use his body in increasingly skillful ways.
- \*He experiences joy in achieving a skill.
- \*He learns safety and caution.
- \*He learns to take turns and to share.
- \*He learns to notice and appreciate changes in nature.

