



Play Time

Early Learning (Math, Cognitive)

Engage your child in **exploration**, supporting **imaginative play**. "Did you make me some coffee in that cup? Let's pretend that we are cooking dinner."

Help your child **arrange** blocks, toys, or objects from **smallest to largest** or **shortest to longest**.

Help children **see patterns** in nature (types of leaves).

Use recycled materials to **create props** for play (empty oatmeal box, wrapping paper tube).

During play activities, **use vocabulary** that is related to **problem solving**. "You had a problem building that tower, but the bigger block makes it easier."

Fine/Gross Motor

Allow your child to **use crayons, chalk, and child markers**. Provide **materials** such as play dough or squishy foam toys to squeeze.

Engage your child in **playing with and stacking** blocks and/or small household objects.

Use music to encourage **movement** through song games and dance.

Stack couch cushions or pillows and allow your child to **climb** up the mountain.

Language/Literacy

Build a blanket fort by stretching a blanket or sheet between your couch cushions and chairs. **Talk** about who is inside or outside the fort and how the blanket makes a little house. Using words such as *on, in, out,* and *under* builds children's spatial vocabulary and conceptual knowledge.

Describe activities and **introduce vocabulary** to accompany your child's actions during play. **Use language** from your home and school, if different.

Engage your child in **discussions** about thinking ahead by asking "what if" questions about the natural world.

Social/Emotional

Encourage your child to **engage in new tasks** she can accomplish successfully. Provide a safe environment for **active exploration**. **Celebrate** accomplishments and explorations.

Spend time with children playing and interacting. **Follow your child's lead**, when possible.

Provide guidance and **model** how to play with children (play side-by-side offering to trade toys).

Self-Help

Offer opportunities for your child to be responsible for personal belongings.

Support your child to **participate in clean up** when play time is over.