

EMBRACING PLAY

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The "Important Stuff" Found in Play is the foundation all children NEED for future success in academics and life.

Success in Future Academics and Life			
	Social	Emotional	Physical Cognitive
Wondering if...	Solving Problems	Asking for what we need	Failing
Persevering	Struggling	Self-regulation	Trying new things
Imagination	Confidence	Collaboration	Teamwork
Conflict Management	Risk assessment	Determination	Succeeding
Independence	Empowerment	Standing up for ourselves and others	Responsibility
Trusted	Relationships	Self motivation	Questioning
Expressing emotions	Ownership	Compromising	Delayed gratification

Four Domains of Developmentally Appropriate Practice:

1) Social 2) Emotional 3) Physical 4) Cognitive

- ALL domains are found in child-led play.
- REMEMBER: COGNITIVE does not mean "rote learning".... it means THINKING SKILLS!
- Joyful learning is MEANINGFUL learning.

"Those things you
learn without JOY
you will forget easily."

-Finnish Saying

How to Embrace Play:

1. Control the environment and your expectations.....INSTEAD of controlling children.

- I am really good at this!!
- YIKES! I need to make some changes here.

ACTION PLAN:

2. Follow children with the "plop philosophy" INSTEAD of leading them with YOUR ideas.

Plop (noun): Anything that is placed in a child's environment with zero adult direction, demonstration or expectation. The child is given the freedom of time, technique, task and team. The adult quietly observes and gives opportunities for children to try, fail, succeed, explore and ask for what they need.

Examples of Plops: stories, songs, objects, mystery words, questions or challenges

INTENTIONALITY:

- 1) The children led me here
- 2) I have not seen a particular skill in a while, these materials MIGHT provide a need for that skill.
- 3) I wonder what they will do with this combination of materials

- I am really good at this!!
- YIKES! I need to make some changes here.

ACTION PLAN:

3. Embrace the Moment....INSTEAD of casting it aside in order to get to your lesson plan, or avoid a mess.

- I am really good at this!!
- YIKES! I need to make some changes here.

ACTION PLAN:

4. Bite your tongue.....INSTEAD of interrupting conflict, struggles and other uncomfortable side-effects of child-led play.

I am really good at this!!

YIKES! I need to make some changes here.

ACTION PLAN:

5. Observe and Dissect the Learning in Play....INSTEAD of viewing play as just a way for children to get energy out so they can sit and learn.

I am really good at this!!

YIKES! I need to make some changes here.

ACTION PLAN: