

Play-Based Learning

Discover the definition and benefits of play-based learning by watching this 2-minute video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2s0hSjLTTE>

The Power of Playful Learning in the Early Childhood Setting

This excerpt also illustrates the ways in which play and learning mutually support one another and how teachers connect learning goals to children's play. Whether solitary, dramatic, parallel, social, cooperative, onlooker, object, fantasy, physical, constructive, or games with rules, play, in all of its forms, is a teaching practice that optimally facilitates young children's development and learning.

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/summer2022/power-playful-learning>

Guided Play: Turning Everyday Play into Meaningful STEM Learning Opportunities

Are you looking for ways to help children learn STEM concepts and processes naturally and in a fun and engaging way? This blog from STEMIE explores the teaching practice of guided play, also known as play-based learning. This approach involves adults intentionally guiding play to support children's learning goals. <https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/blog/guided-play-turning-everyday-play-into-meaningful-stem-learning-opportunities/>

Let's Play – A Playbook for Kids of All Abilities

This resource offers activities to encourage creativity, physical exploration, self-expression, socialization, collaboration, and communication, and support math, reading, and writing readiness through play.

https://thegeniusofplay.org/App_Themes/tgop/pdfs/activity/lets-play-playbook.pdf?utm_campaign=mar2025c1_playbook&utm_content=Let%27s%20Play%20Playbook&utm_term=consumer&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter

Building the Environment for Play-Based Learning

This chapter highlights the many ways in which intentionally design environments to shape literacy-rich play experiences. The text explores the connections between theories of play and literacy learning opportunities and includes ideas for designing, using, and assessing literacy-rich play environments.

https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Courses/Chabot_College/Early_Childhood_Literacy/07%3A_Building_the_Environment_for_Play-Based_Learning

Brain-Building Through Play: Activities for Infants, Toddlers, and Children

This handout series provides suggestions for games and play-based activities based on a child's age. The activities for younger children are designed for adults to engage in with children. Activities for later ages allow the adults to step back, enabling children's independence to blossom as they transition to playing more often with peers.

<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/handouts-tools/brainbuildingthroughplay/>

GUMDROP: Child's Play

In less than a minute, you'll see a great example of how play can help build a brain.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTeaLL5mg6M>

Natural Resources is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features readily available and free resources on a specific topic related to children from birth through Grade 3 and their families. Resources available in Spanish are highlighted. Natural Resources is compiled and distributed by Camille Catlett. Past issues are archived at <https://scriptnc.fpg.unc.edu/natural-resources-monthly-newsletter> To subscribe or unsubscribe, suggest resources, or get more information, please contact Camille Catlett at camille.catlett@unc.edu