Play with Me! Presentation Notes

Slide 1

Play with ME!
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Playing with children helps them develop in many different ways.

It helps their physical, intellectual, emotional and social development. Through play, children learn to interact with the world, people, their surrounding and objects. Children can learning about the world and themselves through play. Children need their parents, adults, sibling and other caregivers to encourage creativity and self expression.
Parents and caregivers need to give children their time, space and materials for play. It does not have to cost a lot to make an educational toy. Make a list of 10 items you have around your house that you could make into a play toy for a child. Example: a cookie cutter could be used to cut our clay shapes to teach a child about shapes.
Play can help a child develop physically. What are some examples? Ask class for examples. (tricycle, jungle gym, balls etc.) Play helps children learn concepts about their physical world; trees, plants, water, animals, shopping, etc. Through play, children learn logical concepts such as pretend play; playing school, repair man, grocery shopping, fireman, etc. What are some toys that appropriate for 3 year olds? 5 year olds? 8 year olds? 10-12 year olds? What are some safety features to look for in a toy for a three year old?
Ask students why you should throw away broken toys and why toys with small parts should not be given to children. Brainstorm with your group to compile a list of safety rules/features when selecting toys for children.
Symbol-type play helps a child prepare for the more abstract concepts such as writing and language. Children pretend with dolls by feeding, dressing, and caring for them. Children may develop many props to use in pretend situations.

Play can also help a child develop their language. What toys are available to help babies start forming their first sounds? Why are talking books helpful in developing a child's language? Make sure the toys are appropriate for the child's age, physical and mental abilities.
References/Resources

- [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org) National Association for the Education of Young Children. Has different articles and information on children.
- [http://www.uaf.edu/ces/publications-db/catalog/hec/PCD-00089.pdf](http://www.uaf.edu/ces/publications-db/catalog/hec/PCD-00089.pdf) A very resourceful articles on appropriate toys for children ages birth to 9 years old, how to select toys and parental involvement.