

When I Play I Am Learning

When I **paint at the easel**, I am learning...

- to develop my imagination and creativity.
- eye-hand coordination, helpful for learning to write.
- the names of colors and how to make new colors.
- to distinguish shapes, and purposely create shapes.
- to notice patterns from background, necessary for learning to read.
- to express my feelings and ideas.
- that my ideas have value.
- relationships of space and size, necessary for mathematics.
- concepts of symmetry, balance, and design.

When I **play with playdough**, I am learning...

- to see the shape against the background of the table, a reading skill.
- concepts of shapes, relative sizes, big, small, length, height, etc.
- to see negative space when cookie cutter shapes are taken away.
- to express feelings, squeezing and pounding.
- to exercise my imagination and creativity.
- that the amount of a substance remains the same, even when the shape changes.

When I **play with water**, I am learning...

- that some things sink and some things float.
- to observe changes as water takes different form in different containers.
- about different temperatures.
- about wet, dry, and evaporation.
- what happens when you add soap.
- eye-hand coordination as I learn to pour.
- concepts of empty and full, volume and weight, relevant to mathematics.

When I **sort things**, I am learning...

- to notice details and similarities and differences in objects.
- to form categories, essential concepts for reading and mathematics.
- concepts of color, size, and shape.
- numerical concepts of more and less.
- logical reasoning.

When I **play with blocks, cars and trucks**, I am learning...

- concepts of shape, size, length, and location, all relative to learning to reason and do mathematics.
- to create and repeat patterns, a math skill.
- to exercise my imagination.
- to express my ideas.
- to cooperate with others.

- to solve problems.
- about the properties of wood.
- to see myself from a different perspective, that of a giant.

When I **play on the climbing equipment**, I am learning...

- self confidence as I develop new skills.
- physical strength, coordination and balance.
- to use my imagination.
- to cooperate with others when involved in some dramatic play.
- to solve problems.

When I **play in the dress up corner**, I am learning...

- to be flexible in my thinking.
- to express myself in sentences.
- to try on different adult roles.
- to solve problems, especially socially, through negotiation with friends.
- to sort and organize play things.
- to make decisions.
- to improvise and use things in a symbolic way to represent something else... a form of abstract thinking.
- to carry out my ideas, with the cooperation of others.
- to exercise my imagination and creativity.

When I **participate in circle time activities**, I am learning...

- to listen, sit still, and understand spoken language.
- to add my ideas to the discussion. My ideas have value.
- to wait when others are talking.
- new vocabulary connected with the topic of discussion.
- to remember the words of songs and poems.
- the names of others in the group.
- to cooperate and be considerate of the needs of others.
- to help plan what we will do and what items we will need to do it.

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