



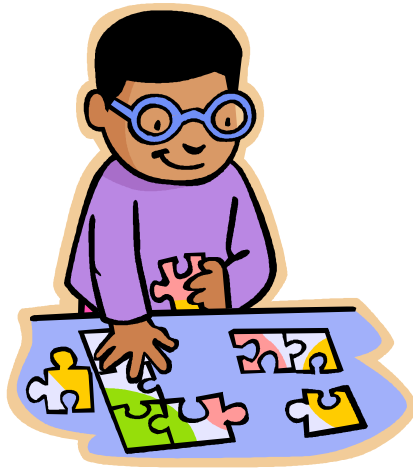
What are the children learning at the play dough table?

- Measurement: How long is that snake?
"How heavy is the ball?"
- Counting: "How many pieces have you cut?"
"Can you make one more?"
- Comparison & Estimation: "Which ball of dough is bigger?" "Is this snake bigger, or the ball?"
- When we make play dough with the children they are learning about measurement and counting, as well as science concepts such as what happens when the hot water goes in the water, salt and flour mixture.



What are the children learning through socio-dramatic play?

- Social skills such as negotiating with others, sharing the resources, taking turns and problem solving
- Literacy concepts: Making an “Open” sign for the hospital, making name tags for the policemen and doctors
- Abstract thinking skills, by using abstract objects (e.g. wool) to represent real things (e.g. noodles)
- Dramatic play allows children to act out issues relevant to their lives eg a new baby in the family
- Numeracy skills: counting out the number of places to set at the tea party table.



What are the children learning when doing a puzzle?

- Problem solving skills to fit the puzzle back together, trying different strategies - looking at the shapes, using memory, looking at the pictures, "trial and error"
- Puzzles allow children to work collaboratively, supporting each other's learning
- Numeracy: Counting the pieces eg "How many more pieces to go?"



What are the children learning in the block corner and with construction sets?

- Abstract thinking skills: By creating something “real” (eg a house) out of something abstract (blocks)
- Numeracy: measurement (which block is longer?) and one-to-one correspondence (counting the blocks)
- Problem solving skills: “which block do I need to fit this gap?”



What are the children learning when they paint?

- Self help skills: Putting own smock on/off, washing own hands after they have finished
- Science concepts: such as colour-mixing, physics (looking at how the paint runs down the page)
- Abstract thinking skills (eg this circle is the sun, this triangle is the roof)



What are the children learning at the drawing table?

- Literacy: The children will often ask adults how to spell words, how to write letters
- Drawing and scribbling lead to writing: Over time, children learn writing is a particular kind of “drawing” that carries a message
- Fine motor development: This is important for learning to write
- The addition of rulers, sticky tape, scissors, glue sticks and envelopes allow the children to explore their own interests (cutting and sticking, making letters etc).



What are the children learning at the making table?

- The importance of recycling and not wasting our resources
- Abstract thinking skills, by using an abstract object (tube) to make something real (a telescope)
- Scissor skills
- Problem solving skills, as they figure out how to attach the materials together.



What are the children learning when they are reading books?

- Literacy skills: Learning about the way we read and write (left to right, leaving spaces between words, front to back)
- Reading and re-reading simple, repetitive books allows children to become familiar with the words - an important step in learning to read
- Reading factual (non-fiction) books allows children to learn about what they are interested in (eg space, dinosaurs).



What are the children learning at group time?

- Listening skills, concentration skills and observation skills
- Show and tell helps children to develop listening and speaking skills
- Doing the calendar teaches children about days, months and weather and also counting as children notice “the numbers in the month are getting bigger”
- Stories and songs with rhyming words prepare children for more formal literacy lessons at school. The children are already aware of rhyming words and we play games changing the words in the songs to make our own.