

“Teaching Infants and Toddlers Through Appropriate Play”

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Basic Principles of Development

1. Children’s development and learning is characterized by their environment;
2. Development occurs in a fairly predictable sequence ---- although the children move through the sequence in different ways;
3. Children learn and development well when their needs are met;
4. Children learn from interacting with the environment and other children;
5. Children learn through play.

Characteristics of Play

1. Play is intrinsically motivated ---- drawn to it naturally;
2. Play is freely chosen by the participants ---- child’s decision; if required, then not play;
3. Play must be pleasurable and engaging;
4. Play doesn’t have to be “real”;
5. Play is actively engaged in by the player;
6. Play is process oriented --- the actual activity is what is motivating (don’t care about finishing or the outcome)
7. Play is self-directed ---- a chance for the child to explore what he/she can do; chance to control their environment.

Developmentally Appropriate Toys and Activities

New ideas I want to try:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Ways I can expand existing toys to meet my age group:

Things that are NOT appropriate for ages 3 and under?