

“Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world.”

Albert Einstein

What is the role of play at school?

Adults often see play as having no particular purpose. However, for children play is essential to physical, social, intellectual, and emotional development.

Because of this, teachers in British Columbia are encouraged to use learning activities that involve play in their classrooms.

Examples include:

- math and language games;
- role play;
- interactive social games that require observation and logic;
- free play centres; and
- outdoor games.



Through activities such as these, children develop their imaginations, learn to follow rules and learn to take turns. In addition, children develop social, emotional and intellectual skills that help them work independently and with others.

Teachers are trained to encourage children to take risks, be creative, and try new ideas. They are also trained to observe children as they work and play. They keep records of their observations, and use them to enhance learning.

VSB

“Play as Work”

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Play as Work



The Importance of Play in Children's Lives

What is play?

Play is any activity that we do for our enjoyment, either alone or with others. Play can be spontaneous or organized.

Spontaneous Play

Spontaneous play is any activity that children take part in with minimal adult intervention. During spontaneous play, children develop the rules and make their own decisions. This form of play can be a hockey game in an alley, play-acting with friends or stuffed animals, or just running around.

Organized Play

Organized play has pre-set rules that players are required to follow. During organized play there is more adult supervision. Examples of organized play include a soccer or hockey league, a drama group, a dance club, or a chess club.

Which type of play is better?

A good balance of both types of play is best. Many people today think that children do not take part in enough unstructured, spontaneous play. Instead they are encouraged to join structured programs or watch TV and play computer games.

Is play important?

Play is so important that the United Nations High Commission has identified play as a basic right of every child. In addition, research has shown that play is essential to the social, physical, intellectual, and emotional development of children. The following are some skills children learn through play.

During play children develop language skills by:

- playing word games;
- role playing with their peers;

- singing songs or chanting rhymes; and
- articulating rules and verbally interacting with teammates.

During play children develop thinking skills by:

- working out rules of a game;
- creating an imaginary world;
- putting puzzles together;
- building with blocks;
- experimenting with new materials; and
- making predictions.

During play children develop social skills by:

- learning to share and take turns;
- taking on different roles; and
- working with others.

During play children develop problem solving skills by:

- negotiating with peers; and
- challenging themselves or being challenged to master new skills.

During play children develop small and large muscle coordination by:

- running, climbing, throwing, catching, and jumping; and
- building, drawing, cutting, and pasting.

During play children develop self-esteem by:

- putting their plans into action, thereby developing more confidence in their abilities; and
- developing and trying out their own ideas without intervention from adults.