



## Characteristics of Playful Learning

Learning through play is joyful, helps children understand what they are doing or learning, involves active, engaged, and repetitive thinking, and social interaction.

### Play is joyful

Characteristics of playful learning



Play is joyful

Children learn through experiences that are fun and joyful. Through positive experiences, children learn to express their emotions and makes playful learning motivating and exciting.

### Play is meaningful

Characteristics of playful learning



Play is meaningful

Play is meaningful as it connects new information and experiences to something a child already knows. Children use what they have seen and done, or what they have noticed other people do as a way of understanding what it means.

### Play is engaging

Characteristics of playful learning



Play is engaging

Children learn when they are engaged and focused on an activity. This keeps their minds exploring, thinking, imagining, and trying out different ideas.

### Play is social and interactive

Characteristics of playful learning



Play is social and interactive

Children learn as they engage and socialise with others. Social play helps children can understand others and build strong relationships.

### Play is Iterative

Characteristics of playful learning



Play is iterative

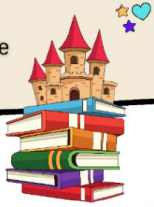
Iterative play lets children try out different possibilities. If something does not work the first time, they find a different way to make it work.

*I sing, talk, read and actively play with my child. That makes me a great parent!*

*Big hearts, caring arms, and play help little bodies and minds grow happy and strong.*

## How play helps your child learn

How we learn as we play



If children hear stories their brains learn the words they need to read and write

How we learn as we play



If a baby throws something on the floor and waits for you to pick it up, they learn object permanence

How we learn as we play



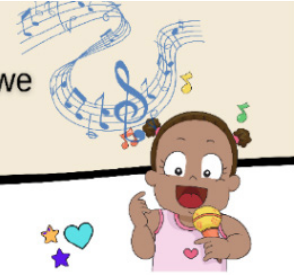
If a toddler stacks things like blocks they are preparing their brain to learn maths, science and engineering principles

How we learn as we play



If a child plays games with rules they learn social and emotional skills

How we learn as we play



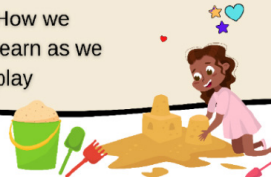
If a child sings songs or says rhymes with numbers in them, they are learning to count

How we learn as we play



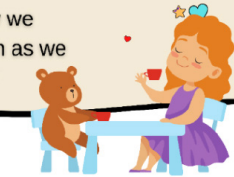
If a child sings songs with repetitive verses, they learn that things happen in a sequence and it builds their memory

How we learn as we play



If a child builds things when playing in mud and sand, they learn engineering skills and conceptual thinking

How we learn as we play



If a child plays dress-up and house-house, they are learning social skills and to understand their world

How we learn as we play



If a baby pull himself up on the furniture he is making his legs strong to learn to walk

How we learn as we play



If a child catches and throws a ball they are developing hand eye co-ordination

*Playful learning is fun for the whole family and can happen anywhere at any time.*

*I sing, talk read and actively play with my child. That makes me a great parent.*



**Playful learning happens everywhere.  
Below are some ideas for playful learning any time.**

- Tell your child a story while you walk or wait.
- Sing your child a song while they brush their teeth.
- Count to your child while you prepare food.
- Teach your child colours while you sort the laundry.
- Teach your child new words while you shop.
- Teach your child position in space while you play with different items.
- Run around to get fit and have healthy bodies.
- Help your child to name their big emotions as they happen.
- Play dress up and draw with your child to build imagination and creativity.
- Teach your child rules by playing games.
- Help your child to learn about themselves by telling them stories about your family.
- Teach your child the rules of the road by playing memory games when travelling.
- Help your child to think in order by reading them a story and asking them to recall what happened.
- Help your child to get ready to read and write by playing clapping and finger games with them.
- Teach your child about society and independence by playing house with them.

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