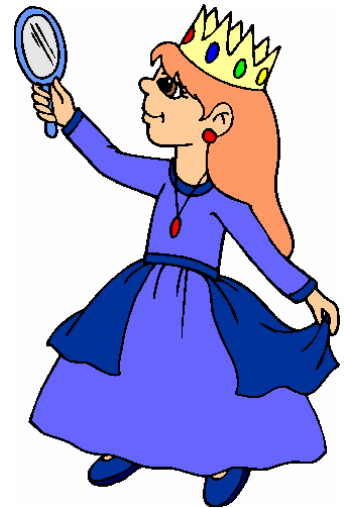




One of the main Learning Contexts is

PLAY



.....Let's find out what children learn when they play



Construction Play

Encouraging children to play with block (Wooden, Mega blocks, Lego, Foam...) allows them to explore their own ideas, and to recreate the world around them. Children use blocks as a representative tool for buildings, cars, people whatever they see potential for. Construction is a huge play experience that can be carried into adult life as it offers unending learning opportunities as they problem solve while they create.

Construction Play Supports Development:

Thinking Skills by:

Discover the physical characteristics of the blocks offered (Smooth, soft, hard, plastic, wood)

Learning to represent other places or things (building a bridge or making fences and then adding farm animals)

Solving construction problems

Learning size, shape and measurement concepts

Learn pattern development, sequencing and beginnings of design.

Learning how their actions have an affect on objects (stacking and piling blocks to make a tower and knocking it down.)

Emotional Development:

Builds self-esteem and pride through achievement.

Develops independence as they attempt to design items.

Replay events that are scary to them eg: monster play

Physical Development:

Uses Small muscle control and balance as they stack blocks

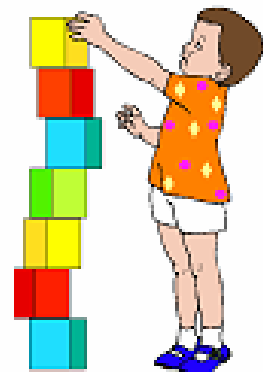
Hand eye co-ordination.

Uses Large muscles as they themselves carry blocks around the room

Social Development:

Learning to co-operate with friends and respect their creations (knock down own tower but not peers)

Learn to share blocks or work together with friends to create a building



Role Play

This is a great way for young children to explore their world, learning about themselves and others. What a child does in Role Play depends on their age, stage of development and what life experiences they have already had. Role play has three stages that children will grow through: Imitative role play, make-believe play (imagination starts to flower) and socio-dramatic play (verbal interaction with others playing their game). Role play helps children develop understanding of the world around them, learn to get along with others, cope with uncertainties and be adaptable.

To help children with Role play you do not need expensive toys just an imagination to see potential in every day objects. A small box could be baby's bed, paper towel roll could be a fireman's hose, your Tupperware could be a drum.....

Role Play Supports Development:

Thinking Skills by:

Imitation actions of others

Problem solving while playing (will they take the sick dog to the vet)

Adapting/substitution if an object is not available eg drum, they may use a upturned bowl

Sorting the objects as they play

Recall and replaying their own experiences.

Emotional Development:

Having fun and being apart of play with others.

Replay sceens that scare them eg: going to the hospital

Physical Development:

Uses Large muscles (Gross motor skills) eg: crawling

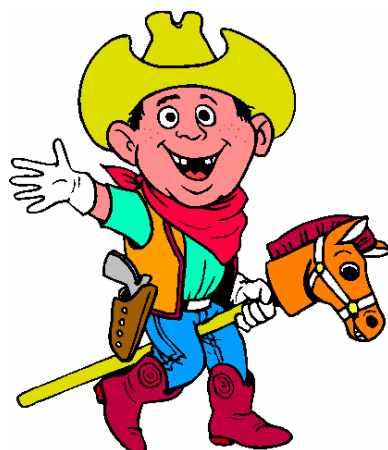
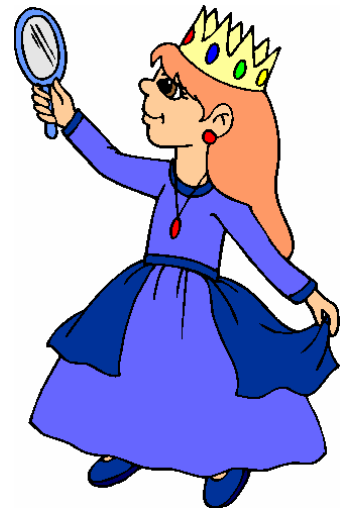
Uses Small muscles (Fine Motor Skills) eg: Zipping/buttoning

Social Development:

Respond to other children

Share props and toys

Trying out different roles from the world around them.



Cooking/Food Preparation

Every day in every house there is some kind of Cooking or Food preparation carried out and these are perfect opportunities for children to learn from. Through cooking/food preparation, children learn how food helps them grow and how it keeps them healthy. But the experience doesn't stop here, through these activities children can learn science and be creative. Allowing the children to help you with Cooking or Food preparation invites them into a world experimentation: Pouring, dumping, mixing, stirring, scooping, smelling, tasting, feeling, hearing and texture.

Cooking or Food preparation Supports Development:

Thinking Skills by:

Learning about nutrition

Sorting and classifying ingredients/foods.

Beginning a foundation in math (measurements & weights)

Understanding basic scientific principles (adding water to flour changes the flour)

Expressing creativity (decorating cakes or setting the table)

Emotional Development:

Showing pride in something they have made.

Having FUN!

Physical Development:

Uses Small muscle control (sift flour, chopping etc...)

Hand eye co-ordination. (pouring water through funnels)

Social Development:

Develops responsibility (helping in chores of daily life)

Learning self help skills (setting the table for lunch)

Working co-operatively (Baking together)



Art/Creative Play

Art is something that you may find beautiful or attractive, but it is really the process behind creation of a finished product. Art is more than knowing how to draw, mould or paint it is a means of self expression. When a child rolls out playdough or paints a picture they are being creative.

It doesn't matter if the painting represents a tree or the clay a snake, what does matter is that the processes behind art and creation allow children to show how they feel, what they might be thinking and how they view their world and to feel good about themselves. So including Art/creative experiences in any Planning is the greatest contribution any Carer can offer their children.

Art/Creative Play Supports Development:

Thinking Skills by:

Learning properties of resources (differences in texture)

Experimenting with materials.

Identifying colours by experimenting with mixing and matching them.

Observing cause and effect (poking holes through playdough or adding water to food die to paint with)

Learning how to solve problems

Labeling shapes for representation (circle = sun square + triangle = a house)

Emotional Development:

Expressing feelings (punching clay, selecting colours to match their moods)

Asserting independence (starting, completing and cleaning up art activity with or without help)

Experiencing pride in their finished masterpiece.

Physical Development:

Uses Small muscles (Fine Motor Skills) eg: grasping a crayon, tearing a picture from a magazine

Hand eye co-ordination eg: drawing with the crayon

Social Development:

Particularly if a group project:

Learning to co-operate

Learn to share resources

Learning to plan



Books and Reading

One of the most enjoyable times in a Carer's and child's day can focus around sharing of a book. This is a time to relax, talk, look at pictures and share an intimate moment (how intimate depends on if the children are sitting on your lap, on the lounge next to you or on the floor while you sit in a chair to read). Books open up new worlds, ideas and places for exploration, through pictures and stories children learn. Books can make a child laugh, sooth a sad child and excite their imaginations. Reading to a child plays a major role in helping them grow up to be readers themselves.

Books and Reading Supports Development:

Thinking Skills by:

Learning vocabulary (point and label object in the pictures)

Learning to understand Letters (Point to the word and say clearly)

Anticipating events as the story is read.

Learning to count (point to objects on a page and count them together)

Learning to recognize colours and shapes (point and label object in the pictures)

Emotional Development:

Work through fears (listening to a story about a animal or child going through a rough time helps children with their fears)

Show compassion for others (children can identify with the story character and their problems or feelings)

Feeling good about themselves (discuss how the child feels after the story or who they liked in the story)

Physical Development:

Uses Small muscle control as they can change pages or help change pages

Hand eye co-ordination. (ask the children to point to specific objects in the pictures)

Strengthen their eye muscles as they follow pictures and words while we read

Social Development:

Learn to share the book and Carer with other children.

Show concern about events in the book (Discuss about, who got lost, the little girl who didn't have a friend or even how sad this character was)

Acting out (often children will role play a story they have read)



Music and Movement

Children respond to movement and noise so it makes sense to combine the both into an experience that is very interactive. (Not only do children love music and movement so do adults of all ages.)

As a child grows their interest in noise changes and they begin to hum, sing, chant and rhyme; from this they develop and appreciation for noise. By adding props such as pots, pans and wooden spoons the world of noise can change to music. Most of us play music in our every day so it stands to reason that we enjoy music as a relaxing past time. Giving musical instruments to children they will discover ways to create their own versions of music (though often not appealing to the adult ear). With music of any kind you will always find some swaying, dancing, tapping, bouncing or clapping and this is why Movement and Music are perfect to combine as an activity. Music and Movement give children many opportunities to express themselves and be creative in that expression. Music enhances language and listening skills and Movement enhances Fine and Gross motor skills. Children naturally connect Movement with Music.

Music and Movement Support Development:

Thinking Skills by:

Linking sounds to their source.

Discovering cause and effect (banging on pots and pans with different tools)

Distinguishing sounds (volume, tempo and tone)

Replicating noises they have heard or songs they have sung.

Emotional Development:

Expressing emotions (Some music is sad, fun, grumpy etc...)

Beginning to recognize types of music they like.

Physical Development:

Hand eye co-ordination.

Spatial awareness (becoming aware of what their bodies can do by using arms and legs while dancing)

Developing rhythm (clapping and stamping)

Practice Large Motor Skills (Hopping, swaying and leaping during creative movement)

Social Development:

Sharing experience and making Friends while doing something FUN!



Outdoor Play

In Australia the Great Outdoors is such a huge part of who we are. We love swimming at the beach, having a BBQ with friends and playing a game of backyard cricket. While you may not be able to do all of those activities in Family Day Care we can certainly celebrate "The Great Outdoors" in FDC style. Outdoor space extends a child's world and provides a new and different area for exploration and play. Being out doors lets children observe first hand: nature, seasons and the weather (science). They will experience fresh air and sunshine, plus it gives them the chance to run off some energy creating a relaxed, satisfied and tired child. The outdoors is a great environment to grow and develop little bodies and minds.

Outdoor Play Supports Development:

Thinking Skills by:

Using their 5 senses to learn about the world.

Experiencing cause and effect and following through on tasks (watering plants they planted)

Using their imaginations (pretending they are at the beach by adding water to the sand pit for play)

Development of Language skills

Your backyard is a science lab (children want to know about the birds in the tree or the spiders web near the window)

Emotional Development:

Expressing emotions (sunshine makes you warm and feel happy)

Feelings of success or accomplishment as they climb that slide or ride that bike well

Learn self-help skills and become independent.

Physical Development:

Hand eye co-ordination and Fine Motor Skills (playing in the sand pit, sidewalk drawing etc...)

Spacial awareness (becoming aware of what their bodies can do by using arms and legs while climbing, sliding, rolling etc...)

Develop balance and co-ordination (by using swings, slides, see saws, jumping rope etc...)

Practice Large Motor Skills (running, crawling, jumping etc...)

Social Development:

Sharing an experience and making Friends while doing something together.

Taking turns and co-operating with each other

