A Parent's Guide to Promoting Learning and Development at Home



Interactions: Top Tips

- Take a little time to observe. What are the children playing? What are the roles and intentions?
- Consider whether you need to enter the play, and for what purposes (such as offering suggestions, introducing new ideas or vocabulary, managing the noise or behaviour, extending the activity through additional resources).
- Try to play on the children's terms by taking on a role that they suggest, and following their ideas and interests.
- Participate alongside and imitate a child's actions to signal that you are in tune and start a playful interaction..
- Offer your own ideas when you are sure that they are consistent with the flow of the play.
- Avoid asking closed questioning and allow the child to initiate talk
- Try not to direct the play. Instead, be alert to the qualities of play, and to the knowledge and skills that children are using and applying.

(Adapted from DCSF, 2009)



Interactions

Positive interactions inspire learning and support development and encourage children to reach beyond their limits. With attuned, responsive parents children make the most progress in their learning.

This does not mean pushing children but understanding what they can do and helping them with their next steps.

It means being a partner with children, enjoying the power of their play and curiosity and the thrill of finding out what they can do together.

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Learning Through Play

Play nourishes every aspect of a child's development. It forms the foundation of intellectual, social, physical, and emotional skills. These skills support children in being ready for school and their future lives.

Play and Learning

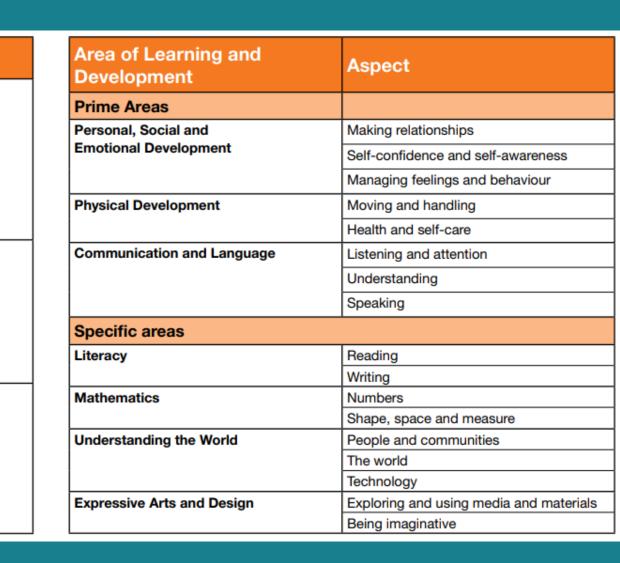




Children need the freedom to explore and play. A child's development is influenced by their exploration, thinking, problem-solving and language expression during play.

How Children Learn

- Through rich and varied play opportunities
- Being with other people
- Being active
- Exploring new experiences
- Talking to themselves
- Communicating to someone who responds to their ideas
- Representing ideas & experiences
- Meeting challenges
- Being shown how to do things
- Practising, repeating & applying skills
- Having fun



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(Image taken from Early Education, 2012, p. 5)

These characteristics are crucial to learning and development.

How children engage with experiences is key to enjoyment and outcomes.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

Playing and exploring – engagement

Finding out and exploring Playing with what they know Being willing to 'have a go'

Active learning – motivation

Being involved and concentrating Keeping trying Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Creating and thinking critically - thinking

Having their own ideas Making links Choosing ways to do things

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This document and other information related to SKIP for Early Years Educators can be freely accessed and downloaded from:

https://www.skipforeyeducators.co.uk

