

All children are curious and imaginative once this is stimulated, each experience suggests another idea.

Ideas multiply, confidence grows and creative play develops becoming self-fulfilling.

Children develop their physical abilities, sense of balance, and muscle strength.

It also develops thinking as children experience properties of matter and interaction of forces; this is where many early maths and physics concepts are absorbed:

- ◆ Spatial understanding
- ◆ Size
- ◆ Shape
- ◆ Weight
- ◆ Gravity
- ◆ Stability
- ◆ Proportion
- ◆ Design
- ◆ Symmetry
- ◆ Problem-solving
- Language for talking
- Non verbal showing you what they can do.

Some ideas that support Open-ended play:

- Mud Kitchens
- Treasure Boxes/baskets or even paper bags.
- Construction toys
- Imaginative play small world toys like, farm animals, sea life and transport toys.
- Role play-dressing up.



What Ever Next by Jill Murphy

This is an excellent story that can easily be set up as role play activity for children to develop box play and their imagination. A story board allows for key words. You can use it as a sensory story.

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Cardboard Boxes and Tubes Open-ended Play



preschool
discovery
baskets



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What is Open-ended Play

Play for children is their approach to life.

Every action is undertaken with the whole being: mind body, and spirit.

Play is basic to children's well-being; it's their way to discover the world around them and to express how they feel and sometimes, to cope with difficulty.

Children's play must be respected.

Although children's play just 'happens' spontaneously, it is complex.

This is not a cardboard box.
It is a



Open-ended play also known as Free Play, and as Child Initiated Play, in which the children themselves determine what to do, how to do it, and what to use.

Open-ended means not having a fixed answer; unrestricted; allowing for change.

Children have no fear of doing it wrong since there is no expectation or correct method or outcome.



Observing this form of play is a privilege it provides an opportunity for adults to have an insight into children's development and thinking.

As adults we expect so much from children telling them what to do.

Today's children are used to having commercial bought toys.

We can help children by allowing space and time for them to get involved in open-ended play. This allows children time, free from pressure. Children develop the freedom of creativity, language and aspects of playing and co-operation.

Some open-ended resources:

- ♦ Shells, pebbles, stones, collection of bricks, pine cones, empty food boxes and shoe boxes.
 - ♦ Sticks, feathers, collection of lids
- Bricks and blocks.

Always think of safety avoid very small objects and supervise child's play they love to pop things into their mouth risk of choking. Boxes must have big air holes so cut a few out.

