



Getting started with play-based learning in early years

Transcription: Reading and writing in play-based learning

Interviewees:

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How does play-based learning support the development of reading and writing?

The kind of reading and writing skills that children develop in play are those that offer them the chance to explore and learn how reading and writing work.

Children become competent readers and writers over a period of years so play offers them the chance to engage in meaningful and open-ended experience at whatever stage of literacy development they're at. For example: writing with a real purpose and without fear of getting the letters or the words wrong and that effectively lays the foundation for the later use of conventional letters and numbers.


Play can also provide children with opportunities to participate in early reading experiences, encouraging the value of reading, the excitement of story or information gathering and the eventual ability to learn through self-discovery from a book that they are able to read conventionally.

How can families support the development of reading and writing skills at home?

Families can help children to develop reading and writing skills at home by reading with them, which supports early reading development.

Children who are read to possess a greater understanding of the difference between the conventions of written and spoken language. So, for example, reading a story, a child recognising that print is permanent and therefore a story in a book is always the same when it's read.

Talking with them about what they think is happening in the story and asking open-ended questions such as "what do you think is going to happen next" will encourage predictive skills. Children need opportunities to write at home and have their emergent efforts recognized by the adults around them as credible. Families can comment on these, for example saying "tell me what you've written" or "show me your writing" or "I can help you write that."



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