



# PRESCHOOL LEARNING

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# WHAT DOES MY CHILD LEARN IN PRESCHOOL?

- In preschool, we address several developmental areas:
  - **Communication:** Language skills (receptively (language the child understands) and expressively (ways your child communicates)).
  - **Social skills:** Friendship skills, turn taking, identifying and expressing emotions, sharing play ideas, eye contact, using toys appropriately.
  - **Motor skills:** Both fine and gross motor skills.
  - **Pre-Academic Skills:** Math, science, art, writing, dramatic play.

# DOES MY CHILD ONLY PLAY IN PRESCHOOL?

The answer is... YES (the majority of the time)! Play is a major component of preschool learning. Children communicate and engage through play. It is important to provide a fun, warm and nurturing environment for children to want to be a part of the classroom.

How do we play with children?

- Make eye contact
- Sit at their level (child size chair, floor)
- Be silly



# HOW DO WE PLAY WITH CHILDREN CONTINUED:

- Meet the child where they are, follow their interests
- Have conversations
- Use playful tone of voice
- Say jokes
- Tickles
- Completing activities and using manipulatives (legos, dramatic play, art, cars, trains, books, etc.)
- Narrate the child's play (As the child is playing, you are verbally saying what the child is doing and can discuss the scenario. For example, Child is acting out a figurine being angry with their mother, you can say "Oh no she is angry at her mommy, I wonder why is she angry, what can she do to calm down")

# ESTABLISH RAPPORT WITH CHILDREN:

- Establishing rapport is the first step we take when interacting with both children and adults.
- What is rapport?  
Definition taken from Webster dictionary: a friendly, harmonious relationship especially : a relationship characterized by agreement, mutual **understanding**, or **empathy** that makes **communication** possible.
- How do we do this? (Greet children by their name, have conversations with them, always use a positive calm and supportive tone, praise positive behaviors, join in on their play, acknowledge and validate their feelings and emotions)

# FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS LEARNED IN PRESCHOOL:

## ❖ Following routines and structure

### □ How do we teach children to follow a routine and establish structure?

- We implement visual supports such as visual classroom schedule. Visual supports such as a classroom schedule, allows the child to visually see the activities taking place throughout their day which provides structure and organization. It also minimizes challenging behaviors.
- Establishing classroom rules. There are set classroom rules which are discussed during circle time and throughout the day.
- Use auditory timer so children have a sense of time during classroom transitions.
- Keep classroom organized with shelves labeled so children know where to put materials away when cleaning up.
- Assign chores (circle time helper, lunch set up helper, etc.)

# FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS LEARNED IN PRESCHOOL CONTINUED:

- Independence: How do we teach children independence?
  - Encouraging children to do tasks on their own. (For example: taking off their coats and hanging them up in their cubby, open containers (if there are fine motor limitations they will be assisted), feeding themselves, etc.
- Self-care: How do we teach self-care skills?
  - Encouraging children to take care of their own bodies such as wash hands, wipe nose, toileting.
- Social emotional skills/regulation:



# FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS LEARNED IN PRESCHOOL CONTINUED:

- How do we teach social emotional skills/regulation?
- We teach children about their feelings (how to identify them on self and others, how to express their feelings and how to cope with their feelings).
- Regardless of developmental level, a variety of tools are used to teach children about their emotions such as pictures, feelings chart, feelings check in board, etc.
- Turn taking and building friendships.
- Initiating social interactions
- All of these skills prepare your child for kindergarten and also aid in decreasing behavioral challenges.





# END OF TRAINING

- Questions?

Thank you 😊