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Play the Work of Young Children Lesson Objective

Time: **40 minutes**

New York State Parenting Standard: **Standard 1: Roles and Responsibilities, Standard 2 Human Growth and Development, Standard 3: Support Systems and Services**

Aim: For students to understand the importance of play for young children, and what children gain through play.

Objectives: Students Will:

- 1.) Gain knowledge of how children learn and grow through play.**
- 2.) Review different play activities and analyze what children learn from each- including knowledge, social skills, emotional development, etc.**
- 3.) Practice playing with toys, and reflect on experiences and skills.**

Materials Needed:

Lesson outline, overhead slides, small movie clips of young children playing, or picture of young children playing different activities, "Play: The Work of Children" worksheet, variety of toys and games in small paper bags.

Play: The Work of Children Lesson Outline

- I. How do Children learn? (*overhead – review each point, briefly*)
 1. exploration
 2. trial and error
 3. pain
 4. pleasure
 5. imitation
 6. participation
 7. communication
 8. play

- II. Play promotes (*overhead- review briefly*)
 1. curiosity
 2. intelligence
 3. social attitudes
 4. small/large muscle development
 5. language

- III. Reflection on Play Activities
 - A. Use movie clips or picture of young children playing, and ask students to talk about what the child(ren) is gaining from each type of play (refer back to the “Play promotes” slide)
 - B. Ask “what was your favorite play activity as a child – or with a child you may play with presently?” and why? “What did you gain from it?”

- IV. Time to Play:
 - A. Pass out different play activities each in a brown paper bas, as well as the “Play: The Work of children” worksheet to students in small groups.
 1. Let students play with the activity for five minutes. Ask them to play with the materials in as many ways as possible – be creative.
 2. Now ask the students to answer the questions on their worksheet.
 3. Bring students back together to discuss their activity using the answers from their worksheet.
 4. Ask if the groups enjoyed their play experience – why or why not?
 - B. What Inhibits Play – Not everyone knows how to play, nor how to play together!
 1. What inhibited your play? Why?
 2. Where can people go gain many different play experiences for a child?
 3. Are expensive toys and things needed to play? Why or Why not?
 - C. Mention that everyone need to play!
 1. How do they play now that they are teenagers?
 2. How do parents play?
 3. Why is it important to continue to play as “adults?”



Play Promotes:

1)Curiosity

2)Intelligence

3)Social Attitudes

4)Small/Large Muscle Development

5)Language





Slide - 2

Children Learn By:

- 1) Exploration
- 2) Trial and Error
- 3) Pain
- 4) Pleasure
- 5) Imitation
- 6) Participation
- 7) Communication

Play: The work of Young Children

Play: The Work of Children

1. What was your activity?
2. How did you play with this activity?
3. What do you think someone could learn from this activity?
4. What age child would this activity/toy/game best be suited for?
5. Are there any safety concerns with this activity?