



How Children Develop and Learn from the Early Years



Play

From the moment they are born, children begin to learn. Through play and exploring the world, their brains are continually developing and making links. Concrete, first hand experiences, are vital to helping children develop.

They need to build, create, explore and experience things in order to learn. For instance, they will learn all about early physics principles by trying to build a bridge for their toy cars to drive across, they will learn about capacity and weight when cooking, they will learn about the properties of different materials when creating a collage.



All these early experiences will support their present and future academic, physical, social and emotional development. For example, when children are outside building a den, they are learning how to problem solve, adjust plans and try out different ideas, listen and respond to others as well as learning how to be resilient when they are trying to achieve something.

Early play experiences are vital to supporting their development. This is true through the early years classes and before starting school but play continues to play a vital role throughout childhood and even into adulthood.

Language

Language is fundamental to learning and it is the foundation for the potential to learn. Children being exposed to talking and language from an early age is so critical for children's development.

Introduction to a range of new vocabulary and encouraging them to ask if they do not understand words will continually develop their understanding of concepts and ideas which will form the basis of all learning.



Encouraging them to talk by asking open questions and encouraging them to express their thoughts and ideas - Why do you think...? Tell me about.... I wonder what would happen if... in a supportive environment, where they do not worry about being right or wrong, will help them to develop and extend their own thinking which will be hugely beneficial to them throughout their education.

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