

The Power of Play



Impact on early development

"Play is so important to optimal child development that it has been recognized by the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights as a right of every child."¹

"Free, unstructured play helps children reach physical, cognitive, and social milestones."²

"It is through play that children at a very early age engage and interact in the world around them."¹



Parent-child relationship

"Playing with kids builds a bond that will last forever. It lets the child know he or she is loved and appreciated."³

"Children's developmental trajectory is critically mediated by appropriate, affective relationships with loving and consistent caregivers as they relate to children through play."¹

"Through play, parents have unlimited activities to help their child through cognitive, emotional, physical, and social development."⁴



Preschool

"Young children who engage in high levels of representation when playing with blocks exhibit expedited reading growth and better reasoning abilities in early elementary school when compared to same-aged peers."⁵

"In childhood play, it is a safe assumption that kids need more than a two-dimensional screen to gain competency. Children need free, hands-on play that is kid-organized, to maximize their potential."⁶

"Children who are able to engage in pretend play will develop both cognitive and social self-regulatory skills."⁷

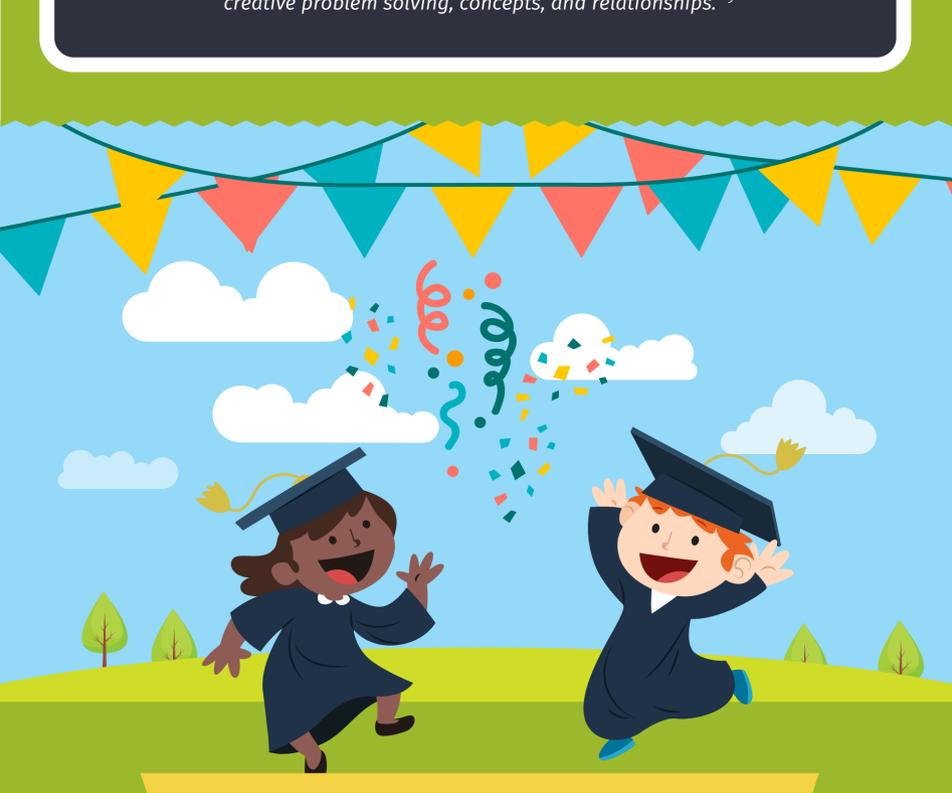


Kindergarten-readiness

"Play allows children to create and explore a world they can master, conquering their fears while practicing adult roles, sometimes in conjunction with other children or adult caregivers."¹

"Research shows the links between play and foundational capacities such as memory, self-regulation, oral language abilities, social skills, and success in school."⁸

"Play engages children's attention, providing challenge, observation and opportunities for practice and success in the development of skills, creative problem solving, concepts, and relationships."⁹



Academic and lifelong success

"Play-based education in preschool and kindergarten gives children a chance to develop their creativity in balanced ways.

It supports the overall healthy development of children and prepares them for the 21st century workplace where creativity is highly valued."¹⁰

"Many of our greatest thinkers locate their capacity for original and profound thought in their imaginative abilities, first developed through creative play in early childhood."¹¹

"Rather than detracting from academic learning, play appears to support the abilities that underlie such learning and thus to promote school success."⁸



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