

Exploratory play



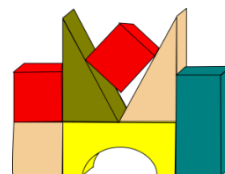
What is pretend play?

Early play is exploratory and is dependent on a varied and interesting environment. Through play with toys and objects, babies and children discover that they can have an effect on the world around them e.g. shaking a rattle makes a noise.

Activity ideas to encourage exploratory play:

What's in The Bag?

Collect items such as: spoons, shiny paper, ribbons, bricks, empty pots. Put the materials in boxes or drawstring bags and take out one at a time to explore. Crumple up the bits of paper to make interesting noises.



Ball Games

Rolling back and forth, throwing/kicking the ball to another person.

Construction Toys

Stacking bricks, toys or beakers. Putting in and taking out of boxes – small objects and containers.

Noisy Toys

Introduce some interesting noisy toys such as mobiles, chime toys, rolling balls with bells in. Boxes, pans, and spoons make great drums.



Hiding Games

Wave a scarf up and down over the child, so that the child can feel the breeze. Lift it high and let it fall over your head. Encourage the child to pull it off your head. Cover a toy with the scarf and encourage the child to pull it off.

Beach Balls

Play games of throw and catch with soft balls. Blow up the beach balls and let the child feel the air coming out.

Sand Pits and Water Trays

Let the child explore the different textures with their hands. Introduce different containers, sieves and pouring jugs and encourage them to fill/ empty them.



Messy Play

Painting with hands, fingers, and feet; or large wax crayons for mark making.

Pop up Books Let the child enjoy pressing the buttons.