

What is play-based learning?

A play-based curriculum is founded on the philosophy that young children (birth through age eight) acquire knowledge best through hands-on exploration of their environment and engaging materials. At the preschool level, this means guiding children through play opportunities that support their academic, social emotional, physical, linguistic, and cognitive development. In short, effective preschool teachers and staff select educational toys, games and books to help children learn while capitalizing on their innate sense of curiosity and amusement.

PLAY IS OFTEN TALKED ABOUT AS IF IT WERE A RELIEF FROM SERIOUS LEARNING. BUT FOR CHILDREN PLAY IS SERIOUS LEARNING. PLAY IS REALLY THE WORK OF CHILDHOOD.
-FRED ROGERS

What differences can we expect in Kindergarten?

Beginning in Kindergarten, the elementary school experience is marked by a lot more structure than at preschool. Children move with their class and teacher from one content area to another, often doing prescribed work alone or in small groups. While portions of the school day are reserved for free exploration, rigorous academic work is a common occurrence.

What can we do?

— the playing adult steps —
SIDEWARD INTO
another reality:
— the playing child —
ADVANCES FORWARD
TO NEW STAGES OF MASTERY.
erik erikson

You can continue to harness the power of play-based learning by making time for meaningful play with and for your child. Building and connecting blocks, art materials, dramatic play props, and outdoor recreation are all great example of play that allows children to expand their knowledge and growth. For maximum potential, play alongside your child and utilize higher-level thinking questions about the work they are doing (prompts that require significant thought, or more than a yes or no answer.)

For more info: <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/topics/play>