

At a recent training that our Early Interventionists attended they received some information on the importance of Play.

We wanted to share it with all of our families!

Facilitating Learning Through Play:

Parent-Child Interactions

1. Follow your child's lead.
2. Play, don't teach.
3. Avoid asking too many questions - don't constantly quiz your child.
4. Be playful and animated - play like a kid!
5. Pair sounds with actions during play time.
6. Say key words louder and with more emphasis to make important words stand out.
7. Give you child choices. Avoid directives.
8. Pause and allow your child time to respond.
9. Play face to face with your child.
10. Allow your child to "steal" language by using words he might say if he could talk.
11. Provide opportunity without pressure! Avoid saying "Say..."
12. Hold desired items next to your face to encourage child to look at you when you talk.
13. Encourage child's efforts (even if it doesn't make sense).
14. Be attentive and show interest in what your child is doing.
15. Allow for messes! The mess is half the fun!
16. Imitate your child's actions and sounds.
17. Take turns with your child.
18. Expand on what your child says.
19. Repeat key words over and over.
20. Enthusiastically describe what your child is doing, seeing, and hearing.
21. Provide unstructured play time and encourage play that fosters creativity. Many commercially manufactured toys inhibit creativity.
22. Join in the play, but don't take over.
23. A successful play partner makes learning fun! So be engaging, fun, happy, animated, encouraging, interesting and responsive when interacting with your child.
24. Remember, play time is about the relationship, **not** about the toy!