CHAPTER 3:
Fostering Creativity in Play

The Whole Child:
Developmental Education for the Early Years
Tenth Edition
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Purposes of Play

• Play Fosters Physical Development
  ◦ Sensorimotor Skills
  ◦ Fitness and Health

• Outdoor Play Connects Children to Nature and Their Environment
  ◦ Nature Feels Good and Inspires
  ◦ Children with Disabilities
Purposes of Play

• Play Fosters Intellectual Development
  ○ Symbolic Thought
  ○ Acquisition of Information and Skills
  ○ Language Development

• Play Enhances Social Development
  ○ Pretend Play: Dramatic and Sociodramatic
  ○ Games with Rules
Purposes of Play

• Play Contains Rich Emotional Values
  ◦ Expression of Feelings
  ◦ Relieves Pressure
  ◦ Mastery

• Play Develops the Creative Aspect of a Child's Personality
  ◦ Imagination
  ◦ Divergent Thinking

• Play is Deeply Satisfying to Children
Developmental Stages of Play

• Piaget's Stages of Play
  ○ Functional Play
  ○ Constructive Play
  ○ Dramatic Play
  ○ Games with Rules
Developmental Stages of Play

• Parten's Stages of Play
  ○ Solitary Play
  ○ Parallel Play
  ○ Associative Play
  ○ Cooperative Play
Developmental Stages of Play

• Educational Implications
  ○ Organized, competitive games are developmentally inappropriate for preschool-aged children
  ○ Be prepared for chaotic nature of children’s play
  ○ Understand how play can enhance academic learning
Factors Likely to Facilitate Creative Play

• Allow Children's Ideas to Develop/Avoid Dominating Play
  ○ Teacher-Directed Play
  ○ Child-Initiated Play with Teacher Support
  ○ Teacher Intervention in Play
Some Practical Ways to Stimulate and Extend Play

- Ask Questions
- Make Suggestions
- Provide Plenty of Time for Play
- Use Language to Enrich Play
- Make a Point to Include Children with Disabilities
Some Practical Ways to Stimulate and Extend Play

- Cast Yourself as Child's Assistant in Play
  - Move with the Child's Play
  - Put Yourself in the Child's Position
  - Put Children in Command of Play
Some Practical Ways to Stimulate and Extend Play

• Actual Life Experience is Fundamental to Creative Play

• Offer Many Opportunities for Outdoor Play

• Equipment is Important to Facilitate Play
  ○ Get Equipment That Encourages Imagination
  ○ Wide Variety of Basic Kinds of Equipment
  ○ Change Equipment Frequently
  ○ Rearrange and Recombine Equipment Frequently
  ○ Store Equipment in Convenient Places
Some Practical Ways to Stimulate and Extend Play

• Keep Play Areas Safe and Attractive

• A Final Thought
  – Children need plenty of freedom, time, and materials for their imaginative play
Specific Activities to Encourage Creativity in Play

• Creative Dramatic Play – “Just Pretending”

• Block Play
  ○ Supply a Variety of Blocks
  ○ Emergent Perceptual-Motor Skills
  ○ Emotionally Satisfying Block Play
  ○ Visual-Spatial Relationships
  ○ Intellectual Development
  ○ Blocks Foster Creativity
Specific Activities to Encourage Creativity in Play

- **Water Play**
  - One of the freest, finest play opportunities we can offer children
  - Should be offered several times a week

- **Mud and Sand**
  - Among most popular play activities, offering messy, unstructured, tactile, sensual experiences

- **Computer and Digital Screen Play**
  - Make sure does not interfere with robust, physical play
  - Ensure screen play is enriching and developmentally appropriate