



## Fundamentals of Parent Child Play to Learn Groups

### Child Leads the Play; Caregivers Plays Along

When children are playing in the dramatic play center, caregivers should follow their child's lead. Caregivers are encouraging to engage in pretend play by asking questions to further their child's experiences. Playing make-believe alongside your child boosts imagination and creativity which are important for critical thinking and problem solving. It is important to follow your child's lead and allow them to explore the toys and play areas in the classroom that are of interest to the child. Pretend role playing with your child is not only fun, but you are strengthening your bond together as well as learning together!

### Child Creates Art Work; Caregivers Encourages Creativity

When in the art center, it is very important to not do the art work for the child. This is the time where the child is working on strengthening their small muscles in their hands. Children are using their imagination and creativity to produce their own artwork, and it should not be affected or altered by their caregivers influence. Keep in mind that the child learns the most when they are doing their own work. When a child completes artwork independently, they feel proud, which boosts self-confidence and self-esteem! Of course if there is any time that the child needs help when gluing or cutting, then the parents can help.



### During Child's Participation at Circle Time; Caregiver Helps Facilitate

Circle time is an important yet tricky time during the playgroups. As we know valuable skills are practiced and learned, not all children will want to participate and cooperate. We encourage caregivers to redirect their child to the circle, but if it becomes too difficult, it is ok for the child to do something else. Caregivers must keep in mind that it is ok if the child does not want to participate in circle time, as this may be developmentally appropriate for the child. Please remember that the teachers, children, and caregivers want a successful circle time, so if difficult behavior occurs feel free to step out of the room for circle time and come back when the child is ready.



### Child Eats Snack; Caregiver Helps When Needed

Snack time is an important time for children to learn social skills and self-help skills. During snack time, children are learning how to sit at a table with peers, eat snack independently and politely, and clean up when finished. These are essential skills not only for kindergarten readiness, but they can also be enforced at home. During snack time, we also practice engaging in conversation with our friends and learning polite manners. It is important to have the caregivers support during snack time by sitting close to their child to help enforce and strengthen these skills.



### Child Plays in Physical Play Space; Caregiver Monitors Play

When children are playing with the gross motor toys and equipment, it is very important for the caregiver to be watching closely. Not only is this important for safety of the children, this is also a time for social learning to be taking place. During this time, important social skills like turn taking and sharing are taking place. This type of play is greatly linked to how children will play at recess in the future. With the support of caregivers watching carefully and closely, the child will have a consistency of guidance and structure to help support gross motor skills and also social skills.



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