

THE POWER OF PLAY-BASED LEARNING: NURTURING CREATIVITY IN KINDERGARTEN

by:
ROXANE R. ORDOÑEZ
Teacher III, Tipo Elementary School

One of the best ways for a child to engage in developing skills and learning new things is to expose them to play. Play is a dynamic activity that showcases children's exceptional skills in exploration, imagination, and decision-making. Through play, a child learns more about their surroundings and themselves.

Playing in early childhood education is essential as it promotes cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development. It helps children learn problem-solving, creativity, and communication skills. Play also fosters imagination and curiosity, which are crucial for lifelong learning. It also holds a vital part in child development. Children develop important skills that they can use throughout their lifetime while playing at an early age.

As a child grows, they grow through different stages of play development. Pathways.org identifies six types of play. These are Unoccupied play (Birth-3 Months), Solitary play (Birth-2 Years), Spectator or Onlooker behavior (2 years), Parallel play (2+ Years), Associate play (3-4 Years), and Cooperative play (4+ Years). These types of play can vary depending on the age of the child who is playing.

Cooperative play is among the most frequently observed forms of play in early education. Cooperative play refers to a child's engagement in a shared activity with other children, demonstrating both interest in the activity and a willingness to interact with their peers. This type of play is the most common to children in their Elementary days or Early Education where a child is usually 5-12 years old in terms of age.

Playing serves as a training ground for a child to what it is to interact with other in comparison to a much bigger environment for them, to an outside world or outside of their comfort zone. With playing, they get to experience a grasp of what it is to communicate with one another as it is with other skills. Different skills to learn and acquire by just participating in a play.

Overall, playing is a vital aspect of early childhood education that supports holistic development.

References: