
UNIT: CHILD CARE**TOPIC: Creative Play**
TIMELINE: Day 6

OBJECTIVES:

1. Discuss the value of play as a developmental task of children.
2. Select games and dramatic play that promote creative play.
3. List guidelines for telling stories to children.

MOTIVATOR/INTRODUCTION:

Think for a minute of places you have been where you have seen young children. What were some unusual things they were playing with? (keys, little pieces of paper, tape, etc.). Children are very creative in thinking of ways to play with a toy. Many children prefer to play with the boxes their gift comes in rather than playing with the gift itself. Creativity is a must for child care workers. You must learn to make use of the items you have on hand and to think more like a child. For a minute, I'd like you to think of at least five things you could do with any of the following: umbrella, large box, paper and crayons, or any other item you have handy.

TEACHER ASSISTED ACTIVITIES:

1. Child's Play

INDIVIDUALIZED ACTIVITIES:

1. Learning Centers Packet

GROUP ACTIVITIES:

CHALLENGE PROJECTS:

Let students complete an additional activity for a learning center of their choice.

SUMMARY:

Being creative is not difficult. It simply requires that you learn to look at things in a different way. Creativity not only is necessary for child care, it will greatly enhance your entire life.

RESOURCES:

CHILD'S PLAY

Play is a child's natural way of learning. Children test and practice new physical, mental and social skills through play. Play builds a foundation for future learning. It is the way a child learns to concentrate, to imagine things, to try new ideas, and to practice grown-up behavior.

You can help the pre-schooler move into the world of play by providing toys that are safe and fun. Choose objects with different textures to touch. Colorful toys with moving parts are fun for the child to move. Avoid unsafe playthings that may break or splinter easily. Watch for dangerous, sharp edges or loose parts.

Play can stimulate a child's imagination. An ordinary cardboard box becomes a spaceship or a kitchen refrigerator through pretending. Children can discover the real world through their make-believe world of play. They also enjoy imitating adults and older brothers and sisters.

Play promotes exercise and coordination. A doll whose clothes can be changed teaches a child how to use buttons, zippers, shoelaces and snaps.

The pre-schooler exercises his imagination with make-believe play. He creates imaginary worlds and makes things happen in them. He pretends to be you or a variety of other people. He adopts dolls and stuffed toys as friends and companions.

The pre-schooler enjoys all kinds of creative materials. She tries creative ideas. She's learning to express herself by creating images. She feels excited and proud about her creations.

A young child probably is not creating an image of a real thing. So don't ask, "Is that a dog?" He won't understand. He was creating an interesting shape with bright colors. Is he supposed to try to make a dog? Instead, encourage the young child by talking about what his creation looks like. Instead of asking him what his picture is, say, "What an interesting shape", or, "I like those colors."

Imaginary Worlds--Give her play people, farm animals, cars and trucks. Add blocks and small boxes for houses, barns and garages. Any simple props can help the child's imagination take off!

Dress-Up--Give him simple items that help him pretend to be someone else: a scarf, a hat, a purse, boots and shoes.

Being You--Let her do what you are doing. When you are digging in the garden, give her a digging tool, too. Sponge the tabletop together. Let her use a whiskbroom while you use a broom.

Dolls and Stuffed Toys--These will comfort him when he is sad or lonesome. They will be the targets of his anger, too. He will let out some of his upset feelings by hitting and throwing them.

Drawing and Painting--Water-washable felt-tip pens, crayons, colored chalk, finger-paints, washable water-based paint. Newsprint, cheap drawing paper, rolls of wrapping paper, clipboards, easels, fat brushes, modeling dough and clay.