



Spotlight on LEARNING

Learning Through Play



Redwood School



What is

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Play is a child's natural way of exploring the world we live in. Developmentally, play covers all aspects of learning – physical, social, emotional and cognitive. Play provides learning opportunities that are multi-sensory, interactive, creative and imaginative. Through play, children are not only learning about the activity or working towards an outcome, they are engaging with each other, negotiating, sorting out arguments and establishing friendships.

They imagine, explore and invent. It is through taking risks, discovering new ideas and putting these ideas into action that learning takes place.



Why it's

IMPORTANT?

The New Zealand Curriculum identifies and values the Key Competencies. All of these can be developed through play-based learning. With recent developments in neurological research, play has been confirmed as the most behaviourally, biologically and developmentally appropriate education to promote healthy childhood development for children up to 7 years old.

More recently, neuroscience has also identified the important link between learning through play, physical movement and the successful development of key executive functioning skills now viewed as paramount for the adult workforce.



What about

READING, WRITING & MATHS

While play is an important part of learning, so too are skills in literacy and numeracy. Children will still receive explicit teaching in reading, writing and mathematics, based on their needs or the needs of the group.



Links to

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Learning through Play **ENGAGES** students with their learning. Students are **EMPOWERED** to make, create, solve problems and face challenges. Working in groups encourages them to **RESPECT** each other, and other people's feelings. It is about giving students **RESPONSIBILITY** for their own learning so that they begin the journey of becoming **LIFELONG LEARNERS**.

