

# Learning facts

## Sand and water play

Sand and water is completely a hands-on experience that is open-ended. You're only limited by the things you don't put out. The kids can put toys to fish in, or they can make mountains and islands. They can put rocks in the water and work with density and weight.

### Skills they learn:

Hand eye coordination  
Math skills  
Textures  
Social skills

## Messy play

Messy play helps children in so many ways, be that to relax, express their feelings, experiment with different materials, learn about texture and develop hand-eye coordination or practice the skills of pouring, measuring and mixing. Ultimately our experience has taught us that children love getting their hands dirty while exploring the world around them.

## Play dough

Using play dough (or in fact any type of dough) with young children is beneficial in so many ways.

- Developing fine and gross motor skills
- Imagination and creativity
- Maths and literacy
- Science and discovery

## Home corner

**The home corner supports** both individual and cooperative play. Many children spend considerable time in the home corner - stirring, filling, emptying, pouring, shaking, mixing, rolling, folding, zipping, buttoning, snapping, brushing, trying things on and taking them off.

They may imitate cooking sequences they have seen at home or pretend to feed a doll or stuffed animal.

**Children involved in exploring,** imitating, and pretending in the home corner, content playing by themselves or alongside others. Other children play there with friends, acting out familiar roles - moms, dads, stepparents, babies, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, grandparents, firefighters.

**Children also re-enact events** they have experienced or heard about - visiting the dentist, going to the emergency room, moving, going shopping, talking on the phone, cleaning up after a flood, visiting daddy, having a birthday party, dressing up to "go out," celebrating holidays, going to church, and attending weddings, funerals, picnics, and movies.

By providing a setting for role play, the home corner allows children to make sense of their immediate world. Children have numerous opportunities to work together, express their feelings, and use language to communicate roles and respond to one another's needs and requests.

**Please don't think all my child does all day is play...  
through this play they are learning skills that will set  
them up for life!**