**Play Facts**

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| Young children have more time to play than ever before. | **“*Children are given less time for free exploratory play as they are hurried to adapt into adult roles and prepare for their future at earlier ages*.”** (page 9)  The Importance Of Play In Promoting Healthy Child Development And Maintaining Strong Parent-Child Bonds[**http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/119/1/182.full**](http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/119/1/182.full) |
| Play is universal. There are no cultural variants. | **“*Socio-cultural factors in both the home and school settings may influence the physical activity behaviors of young children*.”** (page 3)  How We Play- Cultural Determinants of Physical Activity in Young Children  [**http://www.playscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/HowWePlayLitReview.pdf**](http://www.playscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/HowWePlayLitReview.pdf) |
| Play is easy to define. | **“*Researchers and clinicians have used various definitions and terms to describe play*”** (p. 5).  Overview of Play: Its Uses and Importance in Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education[**http://journals.lww.com/iycjournal/Fulltext/2011/07000/Overview\_of\_Play\_\_Its\_Uses\_and\_Importance\_in\_Early.2.aspx#**](http://journals.lww.com/iycjournal/Fulltext/2011/07000/Overview_of_Play__Its_Uses_and_Importance_in_Early.2.aspx)  (other resources highlighting types of play)  **Crisis in the Kindergarten: Why Children Need to Play in School** [**http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/sites/allianceforchildhood.org/files/file/kindergarten\_report.pdf**](http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/sites/allianceforchildhood.org/files/file/kindergarten_report.pdf)  **The Importance of Play in Early Childhood Development** [**http://msuextension.org/publications/HomeHealthandFamily/MT201003HR.pdf**](http://msuextension.org/publications/HomeHealthandFamily/MT201003HR.pdf) |
| There is little connection among play, learning, and development. | **“*To become strong STEM thinkers, children need more play*.”** (page 12)  The roots of STEM success: Changing early learning experiences to build lifelong thinking skills [**http://centerforchildhoodcreativity.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/02/CCC\_The\_Roots\_of\_STEM\_Early\_Learning.pdf**](http://centerforchildhoodcreativity.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/02/CCC_The_Roots_of_STEM_Early_Learning.pdf) |
| Imaginative pretend play is most important during the preschool years. | **“*Make-believe play reaches its highest level of development in the preschool and kindergarten years. However, this fully developed or “mature” form of play does not emerge over-night. In fact, its earliest prerequisites develop in infancy*” (p. 29).** Assessing and scaffolding make-believe play (PDF Download Available). Available from: [**https://www.researchgate.net/publication/292513144\_Assessing\_and\_scaffolding\_make-believe\_play**](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/292513144_Assessing_and_scaffolding_make-believe_play) |
| Children have plenty of opportunity to play outside. | **“*According to the research in the past 10 years, young children are spending less time outdoors engaging in active play and exploring the outdoor world*” (p. 1).**  Supporting Outdoor Play and Exploration for Infants and Toddlers  [**http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/docs/ehs-ta-paper-14-outdoor-play.pdf**](http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/docs/ehs-ta-paper-14-outdoor-play.pdf) |
| Play between children and parents is not necessary. | **“*There is no substitute for parent involvement in play, and that good play generally comes naturally to kids and families*” (p. 57).**  Helping Parents Stay Confident In Their Own Playful Instincts In World of Professional Play Specialists [**https://www.childcareexchange.com/library/5016756.pdf**](https://www.childcareexchange.com/library/5016756.pdf) |
| For very young children, the more toys, the better. | ***“When provided with fewer toys in the environment, toddlers engage in longer periods of play with a single toy, allowing better focus to explore and play more creatively.”*** (page 1) [**https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0163638317301613**](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0163638317301613) |