

6 Play



Early Child Learning

Section 4.0 The Importance

of Play

Play is a very important part of a child's learning experience. It is just as **crucial** as formal education. Play helps the **development** of creativity and communication. Many childhood **friendships** are made during play.

Play can be divided into two categories.

Unstructured play is play without rules. Playing with building blocks and dolls are examples of this. Many children enjoy being **independent** at times.

By playing without rules, they can be truly **imaginative**.

Structured play is play with rules. **Games** and sports are forms of structured play. Games **involving** teams are especially good for young children. If many players are needed for teams, children aren't **left out**. **Participation** is important for all children. They need to learn to work with others.

There is much to teach young children at school. But don't forget about play. It gives them a chance to teach each other. Make it a part of every day.

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 Why is play an important part of learning?
- 2 Give some examples of structured and unstructured play.

Reading

2 Read the textbook excerpt. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the purpose of the textbook excerpt?
A to describe how to play a game
B to describe why play is important
C to discuss a change in school recess rules
D to describe the disadvantages of unstructured play
- 2 Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the textbook excerpt?
A the rules for a team game
B why unstructured play is good for children
C why structured play is good for children
D examples of unstructured play
- 3 According to the textbook excerpt, which of the following is structured play?
A playing with building blocks
B playing with a friend
C playing with dolls
D playing a sport

Vocabulary

3 Read the sentences and choose the correct words.

- 1 **Crucial/Play** is fun and important for children.
- 2 Playing with dolls is a form of **involve/unstructured play**.
- 3 Everyone should play, so no one will be **participation/left out**.
- 4 This **game/independent** has a lot of rules.
- 5 Since sports have rules, they are a form of **development/structured play**.
- 6 Those two children seem to have a great **friendship/imaginative**.