



Department of
Education

LEARNING
.....

through play

AT HOME



Learning is a life long journey.

Children are born naturally curious and ready to learn. Play is the natural way children develop ideas and learn skills. When they play, children **create, experiment, think, communicate, remember, imagine** and try to work out what might happen next.



Learning begins at home, with you and right from birth.

Children's first teachers are their families. The daily interactions and experiences you share with your child is how they learn about their world.

Strong and positive attachments with adults who love and care for them through touch, eye contact, talk – and later through play – are the foundation for future learning. When you create a safe and happy home, with lots of play and lots of talk, you are helping your child grow and enjoy learning.

Learning for young children should be spontaneous and feel like fun. This can happen at home or when you are out and about sharing experiences. Being with your child and seeing what they enjoy will give you ideas about the things they like to play with, helping them discover their own interests and develop their imagination.

TIPS TO HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN THROUGH PLAY



PLAY EVERY DAY – play can be built into everyday routines and activities. Let your child see you having fun, even with everyday activities like hanging out washing, cooking and having a bath.

LET YOUR CHILD LEAD – respond to your child's cues and allow them to lead. They may wish to play alone, with others or with you.

ENJOY THE PLAY – having fun together builds trust and helps develop a stronger relationship. Talking as you play is also important.

DO NOT STRESS ABOUT THE MESS – make tidying up with your child part of the fun.

CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PLAY – encourage your child to make up their own play. Allow time, space and materials; these could be simple, natural or bought items.





How do children learn?

Through their senses – seeing, hearing, touching, tasting and smelling.

By doing things – having new and repetitive experiences indoors and outdoors.

Talking and communicating – facial expressions, smiles, gestures, sharing conversations and listening to you speak and read to them;
and by playing!

For more information on play-based learning visit education.wa.edu.au/play-based-learning