



## The Benefits of Learning Through Play

By: Educational Playcare

Research shows that learning through play is an important part of a child's development. Ensuring your child has enough play time is a great benefit to families to allow their children to release some extra energy, a child begins to find out who they are through play, even during infancy. Even early in development, a child's mind is expanding just by looking at their environment and taking in their surroundings.

Through play and with the use of educational toys, children learn many different skills they will need in their life such as:

- Problem solving and learning cause and effect
- Learning how to play with others through compromise, conflict resolution and sharing
- Development of fine and gross motor skills
- Nurturing their creativity and imagination
- Discovering their independence and positive self-esteem

Children can start benefiting from educational toys as early as one month old. For young infants, sensory play will help stimulate your child's senses. Mobiles, soothers and infant play gyms are great first toys for children as they focus on sensory play through sound, sight and touch. As your child continues to grow and develops hand-eye coordination, families can begin introducing toys that encourage more interaction such as portable toys which will continue to inspire visual and hearing senses with flashing lights and different sounds.

### October 2021

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Please check Brightwheel every day. There is important information there! Also, make sure your child always has a change of clothes and/or diapers/pull-ups, if necessary. Thank You!

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## Caterpillars/Buttercup Butterflies



Fall is here! The babies are getting ready to get into Fall activities and continue practicing fine/gross motor skills. Don't forget Parent-Teacher conference is coming up this month. Our buttercups have been exploring their new room set up and new toys. Next we'll be exploring colors. From learning to sign and say their names to making yummy colored treats, with help, of course.

-Ms. Natalie, Ms. Stacey & Ms. Bailey

## Pixie Butterflies

Hello Pixie families! For the month of October our Pixies will continue their Brown Bear book. Pixies will also greet the new season by participating in fall activities. Parent teacher conferences will also take place this month. If you have not done so please sign up for your conference at the front desk! We look forward to a wonderful new month!

- Ms. Vanessa & Ms. Ally



## Elf Butterflies



We are finishing our First six weeks of school theme. We have learned the what, where and how to work in our centers. We have learned about who is at our school to keep us safe. We are working together as a school family and working on recognizing our big emotions and also learning the rules of the classroom. We are going to start our Exercise study and learn how to keep our bodies healthy and strong. If you are exercising at home, consider inviting your little one to join in with you.

-Ms. Stephanie & Ms. Madison

## Julia Butterflies

This month, we will be starting the pets study! We'll learn all about what kind of animals are pets, where they live, what pets eat, how they make us feel and how to care for pets! We will also be learning about fall and what things happen during fall! We look forward to a great month of October!

-Ms. Paige & Ms. Fallon





Ms. Heather's 4 Year Anniversary—October 3rd  
Ms. Stacey's Birthday— October 11th  
Ms. Kari's Birthday—October 17th  
Ms. Natalie's 5 Year Anniversary—October 18th  
Ms. Stephanie's 6 Year Anniversary—October 23rd

## **The Benefits of Learning Through Play ... continued**

As your child gets older, introducing age appropriate toys will help them continue to learn and hit their milestones. Problem solving toys such as stackers or blocks will help your children work through conflicts and develop an understanding of cause and effect. These types of educational toys will also help them build confidence once they've learned how a toy works after trial and error. As your child becomes more mobile, you can introduce (free-standing) walkers to help teach them about coordination and balance. You can also introduce numbers by counting your child's steps.

For older children two years or older, introducing toys that promote physical play. When they are old enough to use a tricycle, bike or roller-skates, ensure your child understands the safety concerns that comes with these toys and incorporate wearing a helmet and/or other protective gear in the process of using these toys. Families can continue to promote creativity and problem-solving skills by giving your children more complex building sets. Children will also become familiar with how words they hear look on the pages by families spending time reading together.

Learning through play doesn't stop in the house or in the classroom. The importance of outdoor play for young children cannot be overstated. That's why we suggest families bring learning to the great outdoors! Go on a walk and gather nature objects such as sticks, leaves, etc. to use in art projects later. Families can simply just enjoy the outdoors with some fun water play or bringing a blanket and some toys outside to enjoy.

## Paper Plate Spiders

These colorful spiders are so simple to make and they make spooktacular Halloween decorations! Before you know it, you will have some spooky spiders too!

### What you will need:

- Small paper plates (2 per spider)
- Acrylic paint (any color you choose)
- Googly eyes (various sizes, 8 per spider)
- Chenille stems (4 per spider)
- Paint Brush
- Craft Scissors
- Glue
- White String



1. Paint the underside of two small plates with acrylic paint and set them aside to let them dry completely.
2. Cut four chenille stems in half to make eight spider legs.
3. Line up your two painted plates with the paint facing out on both sides and then place a staple at the top to connect them together.
4. Insert a spider leg in between the plates about one-inch and then staple it down between the two plates. Do this with all eight legs, with four on each side of the paper plates.
5. Create a bend in each of the chenille stems to make them look like spider legs.
6. Glue on eight wiggly eyes in different sizes on the top of your spider.
7. Use a hole punch to punch a hole in the top of the paper plate spider and tie a white string through it so you can hang it up as if it's coming down it's spider web.

hello  
OCTOBER

### Super Supper

**BBQ Chicken  
Legs w/  
Baked Beans  
& Coleslaw**  
Pick-up is  
Thursday,  
October 14th  
\$5.00 each.

**Chili w/  
Cornbread  
Muffins**  
Pick-up is  
Thursday,  
October 28th  
\$5.00 each.

**Payment is  
due before  
pick-up.**

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#### Mission:

The Winter Park Day Nursery provides a secure, nurturing and educational environment that is affordable and supports family diversity.

#### Vision:

The Winter Park Day Nursery will build a stronger community by providing high-quality, affordable early childhood education that will prepare our children to succeed in school and life.

*Winter Park Day Nursery is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization.*