

Table Toys

What Does My Child Learn From Table Toys?

Why is my child playing? For the young child, play and work involve the same actions: interacting with people, manipulating objects, and making discoveries that help make sense of the world. Learning happens naturally through play. Play is the work of children. For school success, children must develop physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and creatively. Play is a crucial part of this development of the whole child.

What Are Table Toys? The early childhood classroom should be filled with age-appropriate opportunities for the children to practice coordinating what the eye sees with what the hand can do. When children experience interesting and challenging materials, they are creating a knowledge base for interpreting the world and for making sense of things that they will later talk about, draw, read about, and use in problem solving. Small-muscle activities such as puzzles, small construction sets, and other table toys are normally found in an area of the classroom defined by low, open shelves and child-sized tables and chairs.

What is my Child Learning? Fun, hands-on, and visually stimulating manipulatives help children acquire basic skills, practice fine motor development, and refine eye-hand coordination - all critical for reading and writing readiness. Stacking, fitting, connecting, stringing, comparing, matching, sorting, sequencing, building, classifying, persisting at tasks, turning knobs - children continue to build basic skills through play. Children also learn to think logically, understand cause and effect, recognize shapes, and predict outcomes as they manipulate table toys.

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