



Nebo School District

Preschool Connection

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Inside this issue:

The Power of Play	1
The Role of Parents	1
The Role of Parents	2
Activity Sheet	3
Sequencing Story	4

The Power of Play

Play is the natural way a child learns. It is the way he learns to concentrate, to exercise his imagination, to try out ideas, to practice grown-up behavior, to develop a sense of control over his world.

Nature has always been on the side of early learning. When children are born, they are

graced with an insatiable sense of curiosity. They want to touch, smell, taste, see and hear everything. The more they learn, the more they want to learn. They want to talk, they want to imitate other people, they want to explore.

Children are exceptionally open to environmental influences and need homes and

classrooms where early explorations are encouraged, so that their minds and personalities may grow and develop the potential that is each child's natural legacy.

In brief, the parents' responsibilities for the early education of their child are:

Sometimes parents think that the faster a child learns, the more he learns. This is not true. Pushing education may teach children that learning is no fun at all. The best and most effective kind of parent is the one who accepts his child for what he is and encourages him to develop his potential at his own rate. This parent enjoys a child's learning discoveries as one exciting aspect of overall growth. Sharing but never forcing the natural development of his child, this parent seems to sense what good teachers know:

- Children learn from experiences that are concrete and active. To understand "roundness" he must first have many experiences with real round things.
- Children are always ready to learn on their own level. Success promotes learning. Children need to be provided with the right amount of interest and challenge without being too difficult.
- Children have individual learning styles. What works for one child may not work for another.
- Children learn a language from hearing it and trying it themselves.

preparation as possible for their next classroom experience. We would like parents to be as involved as they feel comfortable with. The emotional development of a child effects the development of the whole child. Of course, we support current research that recommends children be read to 20 minutes a day. We would also encourage 30 minutes of adult/child play interaction per day. The adult would show support and respect for the child by following the child's lead in play by

- Being in close proximity
- Establishing joint attention (taking turns with the same object)
- Giving physical attention
- Giving eye contact
- Being patient
- Exchanging communication
- Smiling; listening; cooperating

This undivided attention shows that for that time period the child's activities were more important than anything else.

We have developed a series of newsletters, which we will be sending home on a monthly