

Learning through Play

What Does it Mean?

“Rather than pushing children to think like adults, we might do better to remember that they are great learners and to try harder to be more like them.”

Seymour Papert (1928-2016) LEGO® Professor of Learning Research MIT Media Lab



Creative, Lifelong Learners

The world we all live in is changing by the day. New challenges to overcome. New ways of living. New opportunities for new solutions. A resilient, curious and creative mind has never been more important in this increasingly interconnected and dynamic world. In the LEGO Group and the LEGO Foundation, we truly believe children have the ability to connect with the world in positive ways, to innovate and inspire, to be an integral part of positive change.

Learning through play is crucial in developing and nurturing these qualities to create lifelong learners.

Re-imagine Play

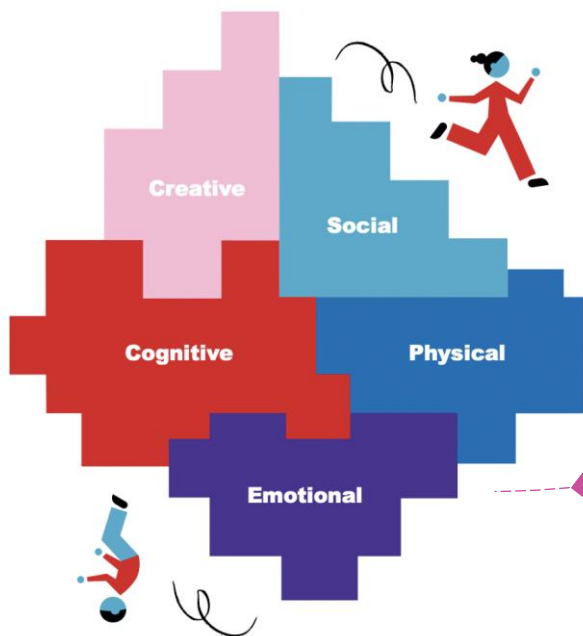
- Play provides us with a fun way to connect with, relate to and interact with the world
- Play is our favourite way to learn – the two are like two wings of a butterfly – one cannot exist without the other (Carla Rinaldi – President of Reggio Children)
- Play experiences are crucial and critical for a child’s holistic development
- Play allows us to explore, experiment, iterate and succeed

Characteristics of Learning through Play

We say learning through play happens when the activity (1) is experienced as joyful, (2) helps children find meaning in what they are doing or learning, (3) involves active, engaged, minds-on thinking, (4) as well as iterative thinking (experimentation, hypothesis testing, etc.) and (5) social interaction.

Re-imagine Learning

Research shows that a holistic approach to learning, where focus is also given to emotional, cognitive, physical, social and creative skills, better prepares and supports a child with the breadth of abilities needed in this ever-changing world. It is also recognised that all of these aspects of learning are not silos but rather interconnected, working together to create lifelong learners.



Skills for Holistic Development

Because child development is beautifully complex, we take a holistic view and highlight the importance of children's emotional, cognitive, physical, social and creative skills and how these complement and interact with one another.

- **Emotional skills:** Understand, manage and express emotions by building self-awareness and handling impulses, as well as staying motivated and confident in the face of difficulties.
- **Cognitive skills:** Concentration, problem solving and flexible thinking by learning to tackle complex tasks and building effective strategies to identify solutions.
- **Physical skills:** Being physically active, understanding movement and space through practicing sensory-motor skills, developing spatial understanding and nurturing an active and healthy body.
- **Social skills:** Collaborate, communicate and understand other people's perspectives through sharing ideas, negotiating rules and building empathy.
- **Creative skills:** Coming up with ideas, expressing them and transforming them into reality by creating associations, symbolising and representing ideas and providing meaningful experiences for others.

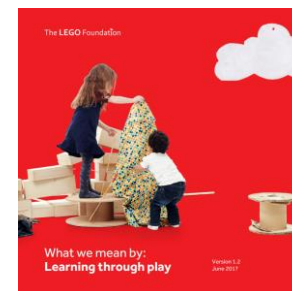
The LEGO Foundation



Further reading

Available at legofoundation.com

What we Mean by Learning through Play



LEGO® Play Well Report

