



Considerations When Engaging Children in Purposeful Play

In engaging children in learning through purposeful play, teachers can consider the following:

To what extent was the learning experience...	To what extent were children able to...	To what extent did I...
Active (not just “hands-on” but “minds-on”)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> stay focused and engaged in the learning process through questioning and reflection compared to passive learning where children listen and memorise information? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ask open-ended questions such as “why” and “how” questions often? give children opportunities to explore new ideas and problem solve?
Engaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> filter out distractions and focus their attention on the task at hand? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> design learning experiences and environment with a “just enough” mentality (i.e., do not over plan) to prevent distractions and help keep children on task?
Meaningful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> make meaningful connections between their own experiences and/or interests and new information which makes their learning richer and more relevant to their own lives? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> help children make meaningful connections in their learning by making links between different learning activities and relating concepts learnt to their daily life experiences?
Socially interactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> interact and collaborate with their friends, teachers, and others in their environment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide opportunities for children to work in different group sizes and with different friends?
Iterative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> generate, test, and revise hypotheses and theories about how things work while exploring and interacting with their environment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> allow children to explore, take risks and make mistakes? ask “Why do you think this happens?”, “How do you know?”, “What other ways can you do/use this differently?”
Joyful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> show enjoyment and positive emotions while engaging in the activity? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> invite and incorporate children’s interests and ideas into learning activities and experiences? allow choice and children to pursue their interests for richer and deeper learning?