

Promoting Open-Ended Play Experiences for Toddlers

Open-ended play allows children multiple opportunities to develop their own ideas. It is a process-oriented approach that does not have predetermined outcomes or limitations. Open-ended play experiences provide lots of time and space for toddlers to explore and discover without being rushed or interrupted.

Open-ended play is essential for toddlers because they are curious about the world around them.

Toddlers need daily opportunities to explore their natural curiosities and interests in safe and nurturing environments.

Schemas are repeated patterns of play that are generally related to children's natural curiosities and interests. Some schemas you may notice when watching and listening to toddlers include transporting (picking things up and moving them), connecting (joining things together), disconnecting (taking things apart), and trajectory (seeing how things move).

When we encourage toddlers to explore and discover based on their natural curiosities and interests, we are supporting their growth and development. Open-ended opportunities with materials that can be used in multiple ways provide toddlers with what they need to engage in meaningful play experiences.

Process-oriented materials allow toddlers to explore based on their interests. There are no right or wrong outcomes in the process because children are exploring rather than making "products."

RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

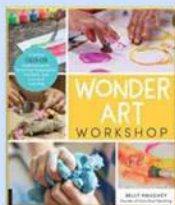
Open-Ended Play at Home Community Playthings Learning Library

<https://www.communityplaythings.co.uk/learning-library/articles/open-ended-play-at-home>



Understanding Schema Play. Learn. Thrive.

<https://playlearntrive.com/understanding-schema-play/>



Wonder Art Workshop: Creative CHILD-LED Experiences for Nurturing Imagination, Curiosity, and a Love of Learning

By Sally Haughey

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