



Thursday, September 7, 2023
Fostering Inclusive Play for all Preschoolers


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Guest Speaker
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Learning Objectives

1. Describe the features and practices of supporting inclusive play.
2. Apply inclusive practices to create engaging play for preschoolers.



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Defining Play

- Intrinsically motivating
- Pleasurable
- Requires active engagement
- Flexible and changing



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Free Play



Collaborative Play



Adult-Directed



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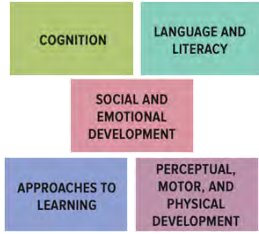
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The Play of Preschoolers

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Play Supports Skills Across Learning Domains



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What does inclusive play mean to you?

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Inclusive Play Is...

Culturally Sustaining Accessible Meaningful



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Play That Is...

Culturally Sustaining

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Guest Expert



Virginia Tse, PhD
Senior Content Specialist
Cultivate Learning, University of Washington



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Cultural Variations in Play

- Varying degrees of adult interaction
- Individualism or collective oriented
- Object-based or people-centered


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Curating your Environment

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Cultural Play

As you watch:

What strategies do the education staff use while interacting with the children?

What evidence do you see of culturally sustaining practices?

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Culturally Sustaining Practices

- Get to know children and families individually
- Offer diverse and relevant materials
- Observe play
- Make time to discuss with your colleagues
- Investigate your own feelings and biases toward types of play
- Facilitate conversations about play with children and families



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Play That Is...

Accessible

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Is Play... Physically Accessible?

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Let's take a look!

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Is Play... Socially Accessible?

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Is Play... Cognitively Accessible?

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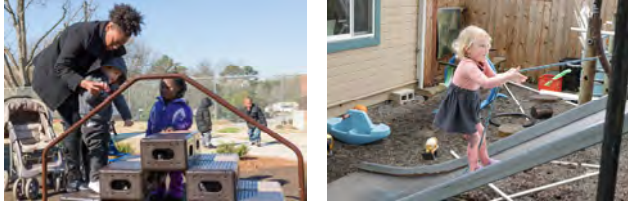
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Supports Can Benefit All Children

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Risky Play For All



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Risky Play For All



Adult **beliefs** and **values** are barriers to risky play access.

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Risky Play Inclusive Practices





- Check for hazards regularly
- Add in loose part play
- Investigate your own biases
- Create individualized opportunities for risky play
- Employ a coordinated approach

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Accessibility Practices

- Observe and ask
- Create multiple ways to engage
- Extend support during free play
- Model warm, curious, inviting interactions
- Create individualized opportunities for play and risky play
- Consult with families, disability services coordinator, and professionals


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Accessible Play

As you watch:
What do you see happening here?

How could we support accessible outdoor play?



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Play That Is...

Meaningful

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What Does Meaningful Play Look Like?



- Motivating
- Reflects children's interests
- Encourages deeper play
- Looks different between children
- Difficulty disengaging
- They talk about it

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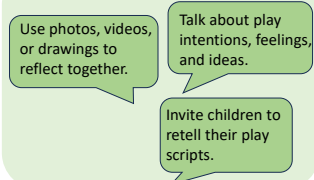
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"Children reveal their understanding and mastery of concepts and skills within their play." CA Department of Education

Observation



Facilitating Discussion



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Planning Web

Create habitat boxes with English and Spanish labels

Add zoo-related props

Max
• Sorts animals
• Mixed with block play
• Speaks Spanish at home
• Narratives about zoos

Incorporate bilingual books about animals

Combine figurines with sand table or bring outside



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Meaningful Play Practices

- Watch play, look for insights
- Offer inviting, diverse materials
- Encourage choice making
- Talk with families
- Discuss play with children
- Expand on play interests



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Meaningful Play

As you watch:
What do you see happening here?

What aspects of this play looks meaningful to Luke?

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Planning Web

- Move ball storage to the soccer area
- Add visual prompts to facilitate interaction
- Hang bells from the net for a sensory experience
- Provide a stack of orange cones or other loose parts

Luke

- Peer communication
- Enjoys playing soccer
- Turn taking



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Inclusive Play Is an Equity Practice

Culturally Sustaining





Meaningful




Accessible



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We Want to Hear From You!

Please take some time to complete the session evaluation.

For more information contact:
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This training was supported by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the United States (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$10,200,000 with 100% funded by ACF. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACF/HHS, or the U.S. Government. This resource may be duplicated for noncommercial uses without permission.

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Thank You!

See you in 2024!



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