

CALIFORNIA AEYC

The Forum for Professional Development

San Jose, September 24 & 25, 2010

Hands, Heart, and Mind[®]

The NAEYC Play Symposium

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HANDS, HEART & MIND

During the Preschool years,
hands-on self active play with
open ended materials merges with
exploration and make believe to become
a higher form of play,....

Strengthening inquiry skills and
conceptual understanding.



Focus

Exploration

Investigation

Self Control



Rocks in my socks...

Self directed

Experimentation

Engaged learning

MIND IN THE MAKING

Ellen Galinsky

THE SEVEN ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS EVERY CHILD NEEDS

- FOCUS & SELF CONTROL
- PERSPECTIVE TAKING
- COMMUNICATING
- MAKING CONNECTIONS
- CRITICAL THINKING
- TAKING ON CHALLENGES
- SELF-DIRECTED, ENGAGED LEARNING



Inventing &
discovering..

Making
connections

Expressing
ideas
creatively



Communicating

“This is the diving board for my ship”

- Froebel: “Self”active, freedom, spirit, divine
- Montessori: arouse interest, whole child
- Piaget: concrete to abstract, invent & discover
- Einstein: highest form of research, imagination
- Vygotsky: social construction, scaffolding
- Erikson: wisdom of senses, “Gerotranscendance”
- Maslow: hierarchy of needs, self actualization
- Jones: diversity, empathy, across life cycle
- Stuart Brown: brain function, emotion, healing
- Palmer: true self, heart open, inner journey





Teachers who are more knowledgeable about the purposeful use of open-ended materials, the process of constructive play, and intentional teaching strategies, succeed in helping children develop essential skills and concepts in all content areas.





- Principle #1:

Self Active Play is a source of creative energy, a positive force and safe context for constructing meaningful self-knowledge and revitalizing the human spirit across the continuum of the human life-cycle.





- Principle #2

Self Active Play play and art making with open ended materials reconnect the individual with earlier stages of human development, spontaneously balancing and strengthening, *hope, will, purpose, competence, fidelity, love, care, and wisdom.* **E. Erikson**





Spontaneously
balancing and
strengthening
Hope, Will,
Purpose,
Competence,
Fidelity
Love,
Care,
Wisdom
Transcendance



Pure joy,....love,...

Our hope for the
future

- Principle #7

Self Active Play's intrinsic qualities include spontaneity of the spirit, thinking deeply, feeling intensely and building a trust in one's intuitive self.



Building a trust
in one's intuitive
self.



- Professional Development

Professional development experiences that feature hands-on play with open-ended materials are the best way to deepen understanding of developmentally appropriate practices in meeting early learning standards.





- “It is important to discover how our jaded senses can be revitalized so that as persons we may become more grounded, more centered in what we truly know, in that innermost core of being”.

Joan M. Erikson

Wisdom and the Senses: The Way of Creativity





- *”Play - choosing what to do, doing it and enjoying it - is a basic skill all across the life cycle. It needs to be mastered in early childhood and sustained into old age, if life is to be lived thoughtfully, energetically and satisfyingly.”*

Betty Jones







May the long time sun

Shine upon you

All love surround you

And the pure light

within you,....

Guide your way on

