**When I play with blocks, I am learning…**

* Sizes and shapes, and how to create and repeat patterns: essential math skills
* Spatial awareness, stacking and balancing: the basics of physics
* Problem solving and logical consequences

**When I play with puzzles, shape sorters, and stacking cups, I am learning…**

* About the relationships of parts to the whole: a basic math concept
* Concepts of shape, relative sizes (big, bigger, smaller), and color
* Eye-hand coordination, small motor skills
* Vocabulary related to the subject of the puzzle
* Problem solving

**When I play with water, I am learning...**

* To use tools to accomplish – funnels, cups, scoops
* Hand-eye coordination as I learn to pour, fill, scoop
* Concepts of empty and full, volume and weight: all relevant to mathematics
* Properties of solids and liquids in motion, and that some things sink and some things float (science!)

**When I play with dolls or stuffed animals, I am learning…**

* To use my imagination
* To treat others with tender, loving care
* To imitate the parenting behaviors I see in my life
* Interpersonal skills

**When I look at books, and when you read them to me, I am learning…**

* That reading is important and enjoyable
* That letters on a page represent words – talk that is written down
* To interpret pictures to represent ideas
* To follow the development of thoughts and ideas in the plot of a story

**When I play outdoors and in the big motor play area, I am learning...**

* Physical strength, coordination and balance
* To jump, slide, run, swing, roll, and climb
* To take some risks and to be cautious if needed
* To watch out for other people before moving, to move around others carefully

**When I play in the kitchen area, I am learning...**

* To use my imagination / try on adult roles
* To express myself in sentences
* To solve problems, especially socially, through negotiation with friends. To cooperate.
* To improvise and use things in a symbolic way to represent other things...abstract thinking.

**When I play with cars and trains, I am learning...**

* To exercise my imagination and see myself from a different perspective, that of a giant
* How wheeled vehicles move through the world and what happens when they crash
* How things need to be pushed up hills, but going downhill, they go fast on their own (physics!)

**When I play with play-dough, I am learning...**

* To think about things in 3 dimensions, as I try to re-create what I see
* That the amount of a substance remains the same, even when the shape changes
* To express feelings, squeezing and pounding
* When I cut out a shape with a cookie cutter, I learn about negative & positive space, seeing something against its background (helps with reading)

**When I sort things, I am learning...**

* To notice details and assess the similarities and differences between objects
* Concepts of color, size and shape
* To form categories, essential concepts for science and mathematics
* Logical reasoning

**When I paint, scribble, or draw, I am learning...**

* To develop my imagination and creativity
* To hold a paintbrush or pencil
* The names of colors and how to make new colors
* To distinguish shapes, and purposely create shapes
* To express my feelings & ideas
* Concepts of symmetry, balance and design

**When I play independently when my parents have left the room for parent education, I learn…**

* Independence and Self-Confidence
* That my parent can leave for a while to tend to his/her own needs, but s/he is still available if needed, and s/he always comes back
* That I can ask other adults for help, and that I need to listen to other adults’ guidance

**When I participate in circle time activities, I am learning...**

* The names of others in the group: an essential skill for building relationships
* To listen, sit still and understand spoken language: important for school readiness
* To wait when others are talking, to cooperate and be considerate of the needs of others
* New vocabulary connected with the topic of discussion
* To remember the words of songs and poems: helps to build memory skills