



Your Partner
on the
Formative Journey

a Kendall Hunt Company

Meeting Young Children Where They Are and Walking With Them On Their Spiritual Journey

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RCL Benziger Stories of God's Love

How Would you Describe a Preschool Child?

What Do You Enjoy Most About Working With Preschoolers?

What Do You Find Most Challenging About Working With Preschoolers?



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What is Your Most Memorable Learning Experience?

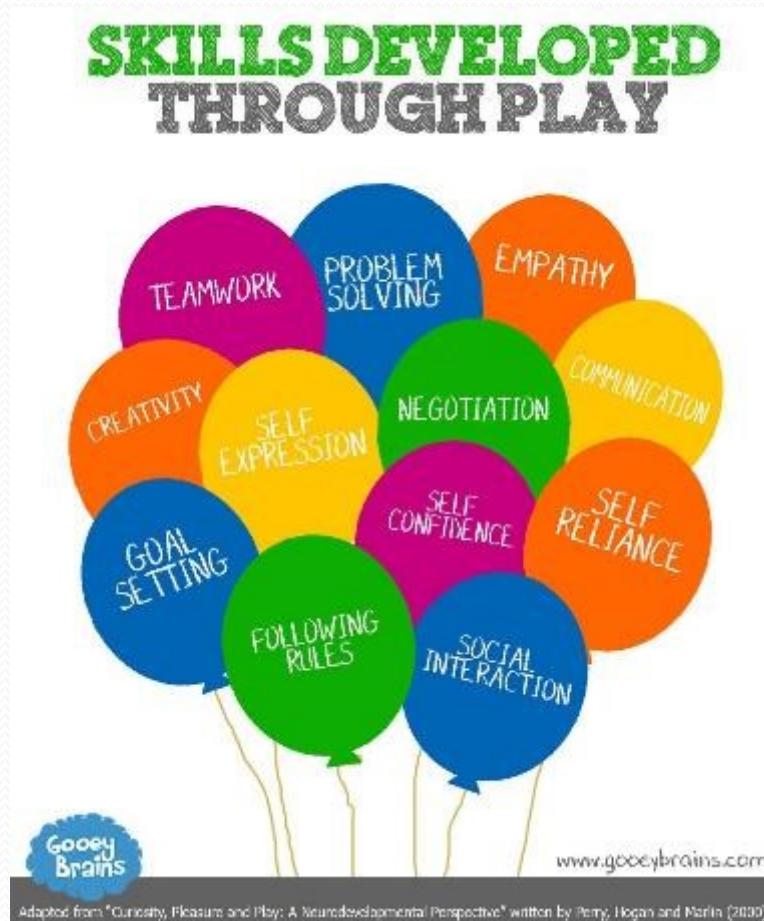
Some might say that play is one of God's gifts to childhood



So what is play?

- Play allows children to explore in the moment.
- It is fun, creative, and memorable.
- It is usually active, flexible and allows children to make choices.
- It often includes interesting objects available for exploring and manipulating.
- It is often social and interactive with peers supporting language development and vocabulary mastery.
- It can be **teacher-directed** but is usually most effective when **child-directed**.

Play Vs. Learning

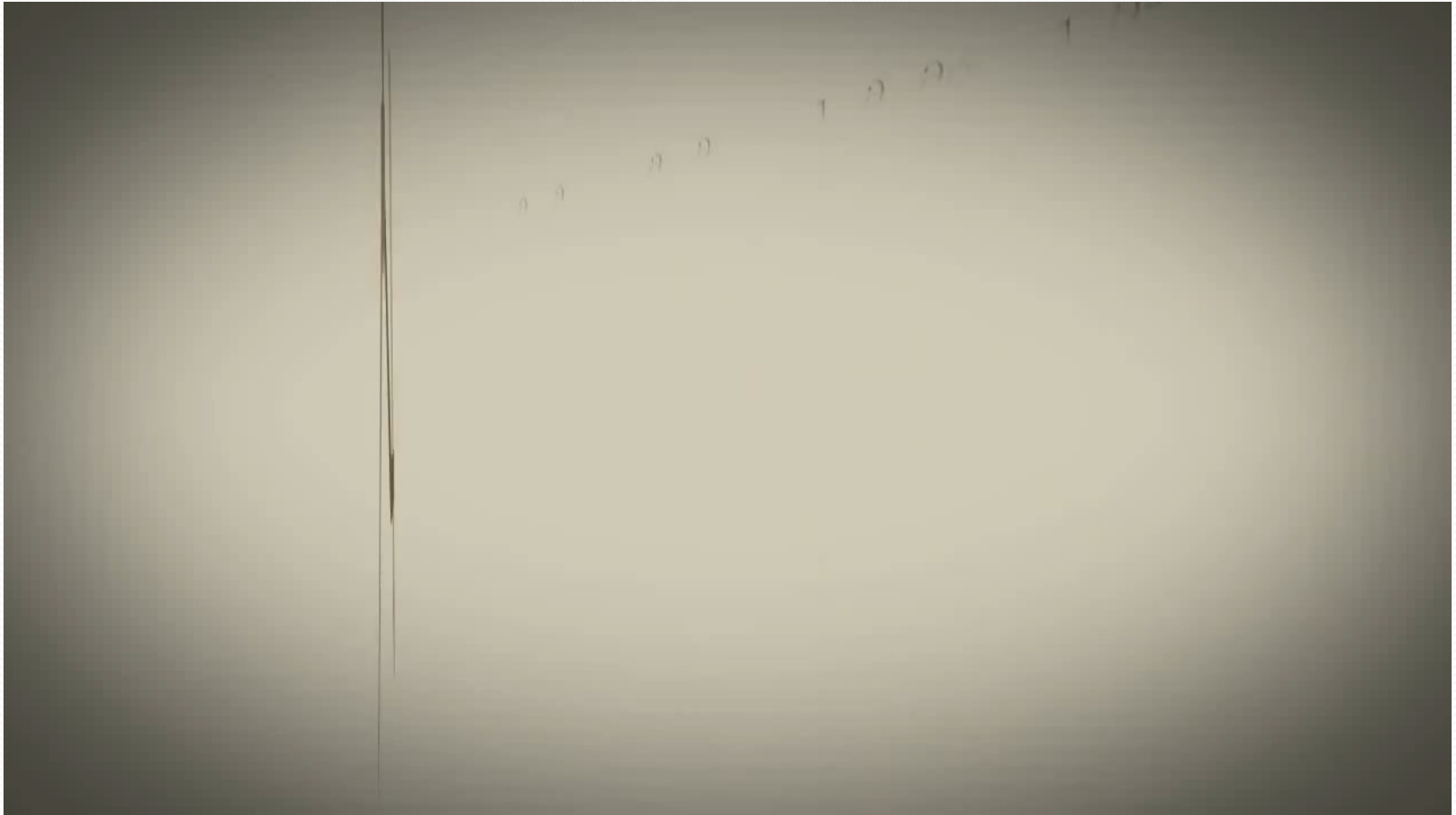


So what happened....

- We become adults and “poof” the power of play is lost and the joy of learning is lost.
- We keep looking for the “real” learning experience.



The Power of Play

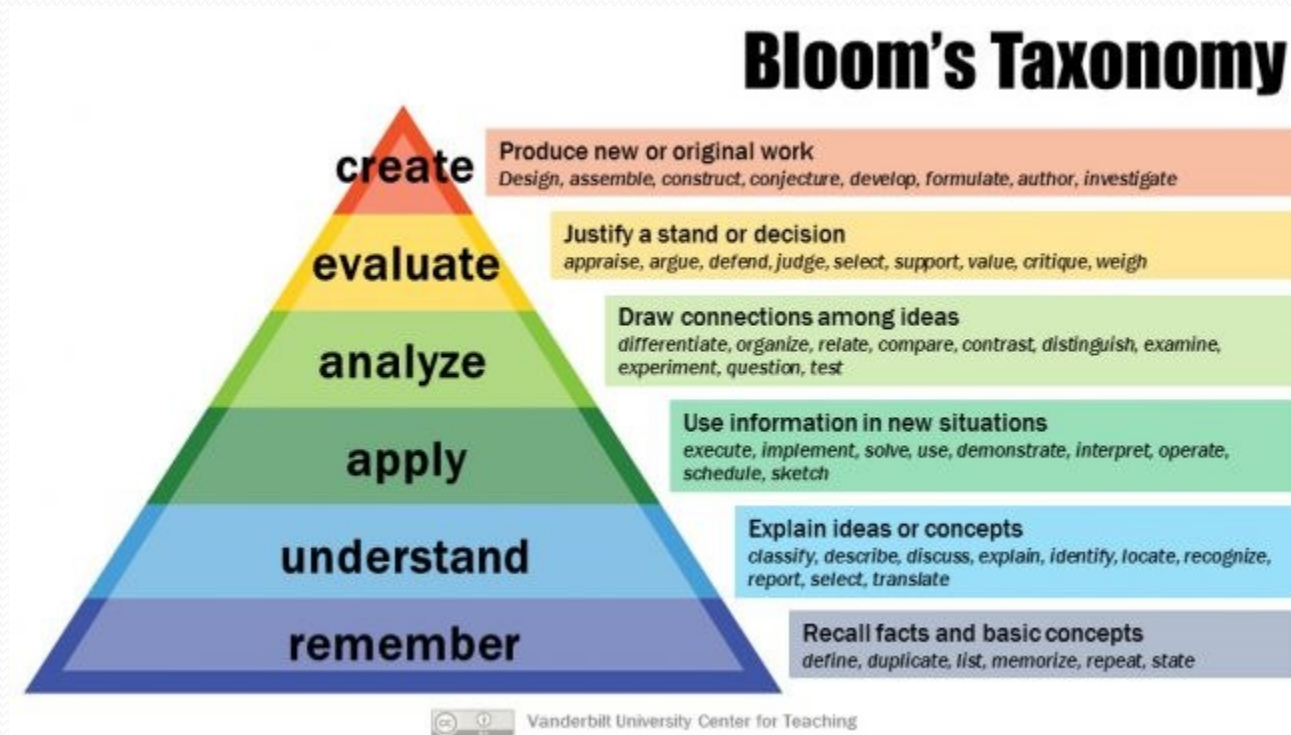


What does this mean for faith formation for young children?

What we know-

- That play is how young children learn best.
- That positive emotions grow the brain.
- That strong emotional memories last a lifetime.
- Shouldn't we be helping young children lay a strong foundation for faith formation?
- Play is how we can achieve this.

Measure What the Children Know and Build Learning Experiences that Build on Their Knowledge



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Facilitating and Supporting Children's Play

- Focus on the Process
 - Ask questions that facilitate the child's play.
- Elaborate on the child's play or interest
 - Do this by making comments and offering new materials to support the play.
- Reflect on the emotions the children express during play and actions.
 - Providing labels for the emotions validates children's feelings.
- Help to define the problem
 - Help to build negotiation skills, and reflective skills to think about alternative actions.
- Provide varied materials to encourage exploration and play.
- Provide open ended materials for play.

Let's Plan Out an Opportunity for Facilitating and Supporting Children's Play

Process



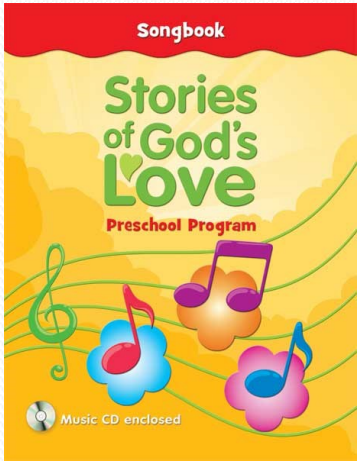
Elaborate: What Will You Need?



Reflect: How Does This Process Feel?



Help Define and Think About Alternative Action or Learning

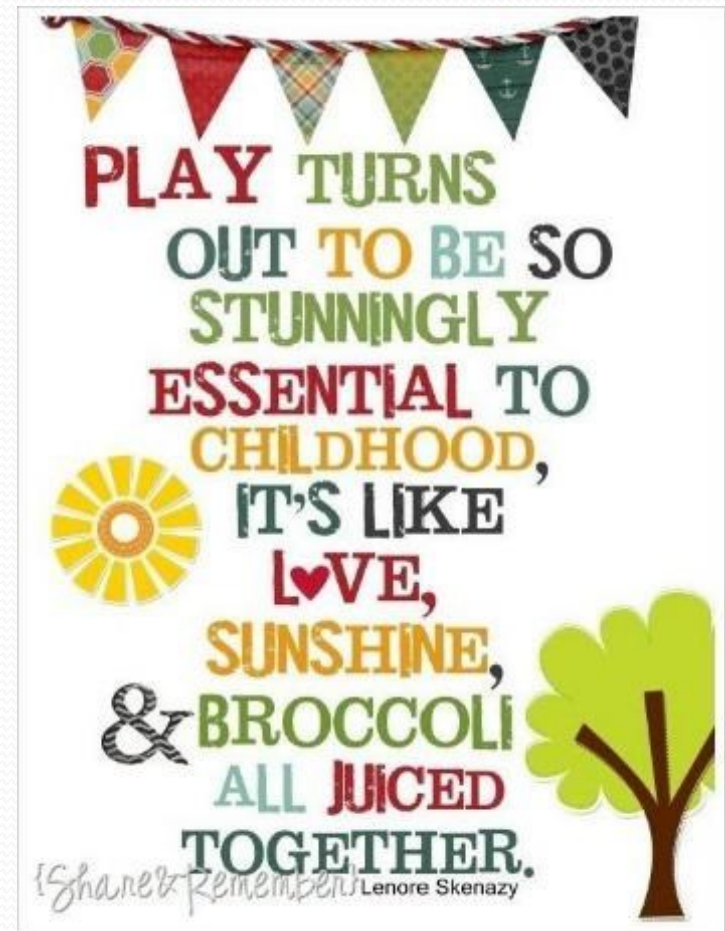


Provide Varied Materials To Encourage Exploration and Play

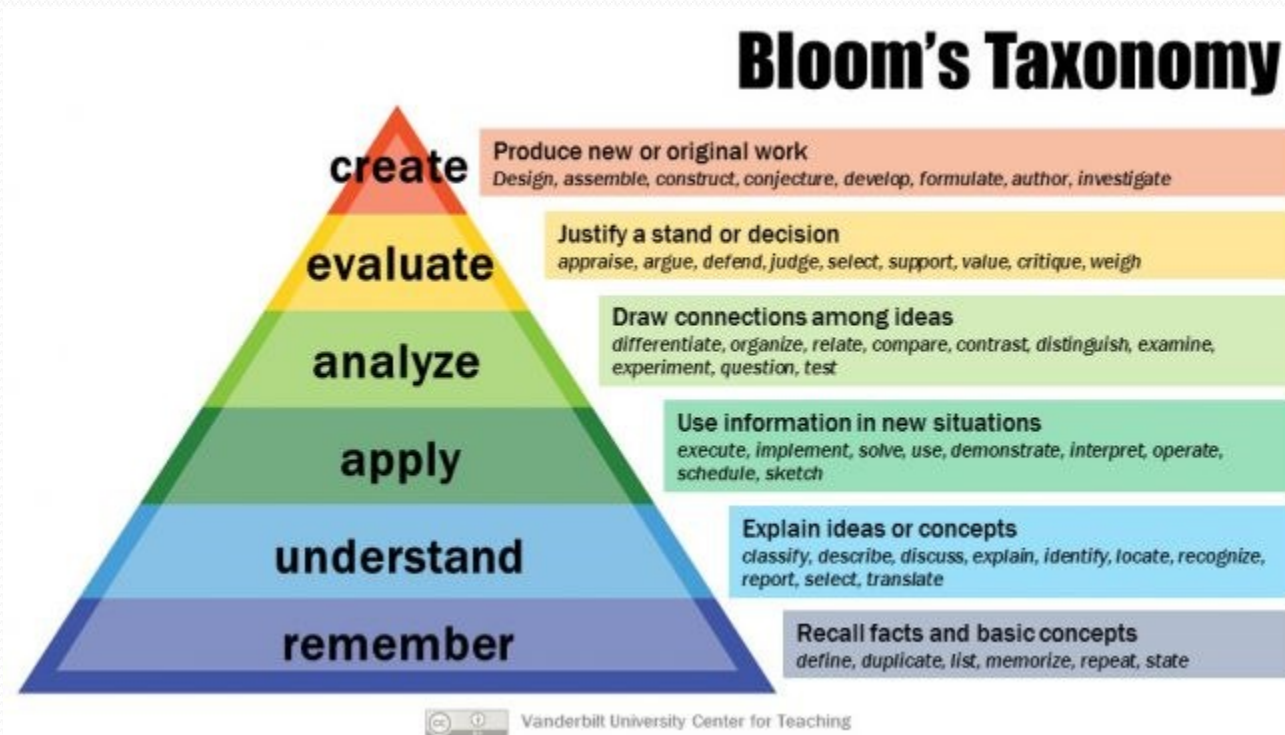


Provide Open Ended Materials For Play

- What have we provided to support
 - Physical Development
 - Cognitive Development and Learning
 - Language Development
 - Social and Emotional Development
 - Spiritual Growth and Development



Revisit Bloom's Taxonomy



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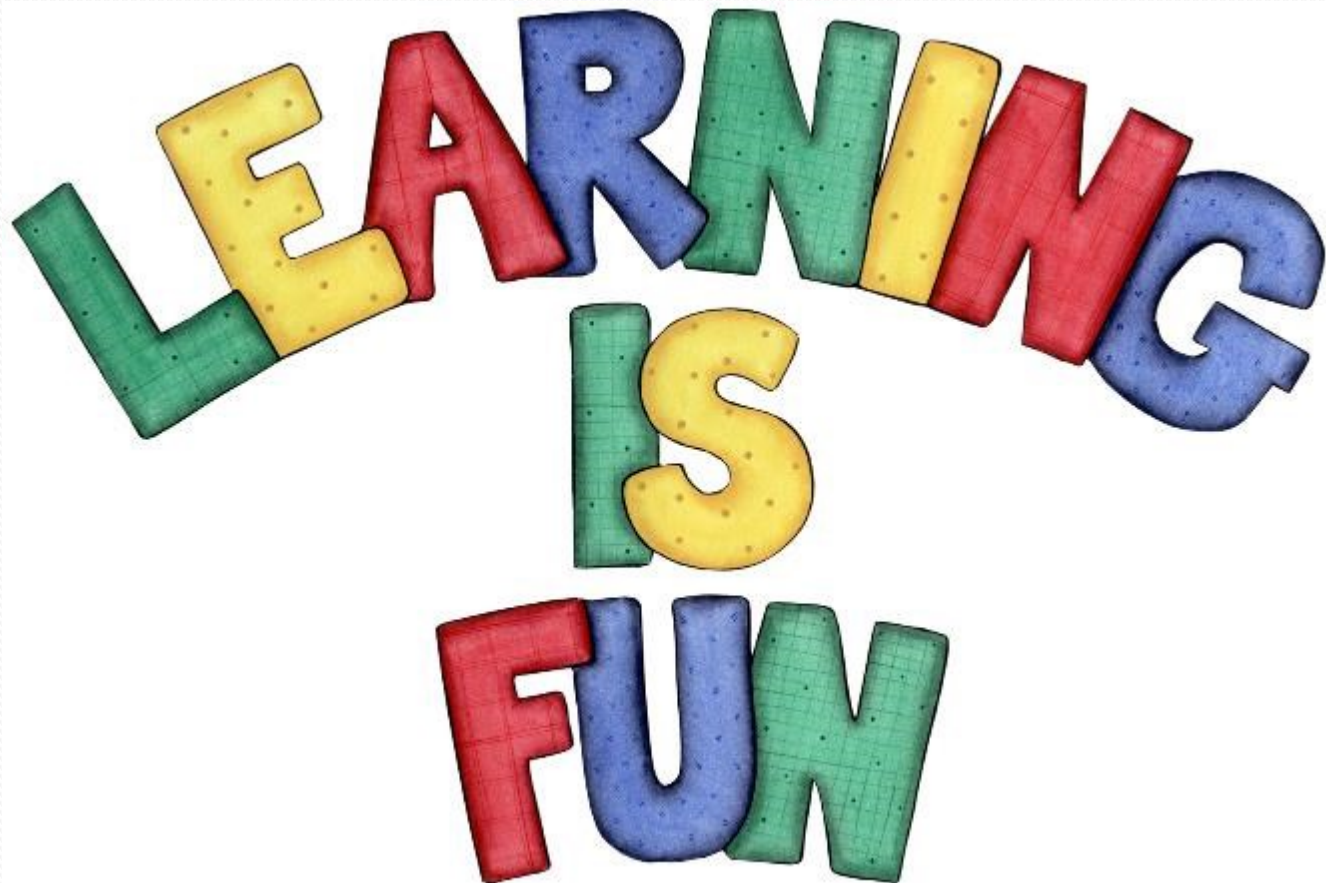


here do you start?



- A program that is based on the tenants of Developmentally Appropriate Practice
 - The environment serves as the third teacher
 - The importance of the active learning and enticing materials
 - Classroom management through guiding behavior
 - Health and safety first
 - Family involvement and communication
 - All are welcome (working with children with special learning needs and developmental differences)

The Power Of Play In Connecting With Preschoolers and Meeting Them Where They Are!



Play is Powerful

The importance of
Play:



The key to a successful future for your child

Unregistered PowerVideoMaker

Theory and Research Base

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