

The Learning Child: Keys to Enhancing Learning

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Length:

Up to two hours

Purpose:

Provide information about the learning child and ways to enhance learning. The future of our society depends on the well-being of our children, so it is important to invest in our young children who are born ready to learn.

Materials Needed:

Fun to Play, Ready to Learn book

- The Learning Child: Keys to Enhancing Learning PowerPoint® presentation
- Handouts:
 - Copy of PowerPoint slides
 - Participant's Guide
 - Early Childhood Games activity (see Participant's Guide)
 - Creative Play Activity (includes the fruit-flavored cereal) handout
 - Evaluation
- Items for Kitchen Capers from kit (see **Keys to Enhance Learning Kit Contents** List)
- Snack packs of Fruit Loops®
- Balls for the Ball Toss activity

Equipment Needed:

Computer with PowerPoint software, projector, speakers, extension cords/power strip, screen (optional)

Program Outline:

1. As participants come into the room, give each person the PowerPoint slides handout and a copy of the *Fun to Play, Ready to Learn* book.
2. Begin the program with Ball Toss.

Explain that it's a game that helps enhance learning. Give the instructions: Get into a circle of four or more people. The rules are:

- a) Toss the ball to one person. That person needs to say their name and hobby or favorite color, or add something to their name.
- b) The second person tosses the ball to someone else, and the receiver says their name and adds something to it as defined by presenter.
- c) From this point on the ball must go to someone who has not had the ball. Those who have already had the ball are to put their hands behind their backs.
- d) After completing that cycle, add a second ball and use the same pattern for throwing as in the first round.
- e) A third ball also can be added.

At the conclusion, have participants name one physical, intellectual, social, and emotional skill they used in this activity.

3. Show the PowerPoint slides and use participant handout sheet "Early Childhood Games" to involve the participants with play activities incorporating



language and movement to develop the domains — physical, intellectual, social, and emotional.

(Steps 4 and 5 are optional activities, depending on time and audience.)

4. To illustrate how the *Fun to Play, Ready to Learn* book is set up and how participants can use it, go to the chapter on Kitchen Capers on Page 54. As you pull things out of your kit, ask participants to find the activity and age level in the book where the items might be used.

When this activity is completed, explain that the book is full of similar activities for all age levels.

5. Have participants work in pairs. Give each person a small snack packet of Fruit Loops and the participant handout called Creative Play Activity. Ask them to see how many ideas they can come up with for brain development just using Fruit Loops. They can look in the book if they get stuck. Then have them turn the handout over and decide which age group it would be appropriate for.
6. Conclude by asking everyone to fill out the evaluation.

Keys to Enhance Learning Kit Contents List

All items are from the Kitchen Capers chapter in the book *Fun to Play, Ready to Learn*

Page 55: Creeper-Crawler, (4 to 8 months of age) — a box of plastic spoons to spill

Page 56: Sun Catcher, (birth to 6 months of age) — aluminum foil pie plate

Page 56: High Chair drop, (6 to 9 months of age)

Page 56: Clothes Pins in the Can, (9 months and older)

Page 57: Egg Carton Sort, (24 to 36 months of age)

Add the egg carton made into Manacala board game, (for pre-school age to over 4)

Also include small bags of the Fruit Loops for the activity from the Kitchen Capers chapter. Fruit Loops activities could include: Page 57 — An Artist is Born, and Egg Carton Sort to get the group started on finding activities in the book related to Fruit Loops.

Laminated pictures from magazines were added to the kit to illustrate a discussion about how colored pictures from a magazine can be used to stimulate a child's mind.

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Evaluation

In an effort to document the value of this program and improve future programming, please complete this evaluation and return it to the program instructor at the end of the presentation.

Your Year of Birth _____

Number of Children _____ Children's Ages _____

Gender: (Circle one) Female Male

Ethnicity: (Circle one) Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Check One) _____ White
 _____ Black or African American
 _____ American Indian or Alaskan Native
 _____ Asian
 _____ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

		<i>Before this program my knowledge was ...</i>					<i>After this program my knowledge was ...</i>				
		<i>Low</i>			<i>High</i>		<i>Low</i>			<i>High</i>	
1	Understand infant and toddler brain structure and functions	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
2	Use knowledge of infant and toddler brain function to plan child care activities and environments	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
3	Understand the important role the child care provider has in brain development of young children.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
4	Develop age appropriate activities to stimulate brain development using things I have	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
5	Use my own creativity to plan activities using household items	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6	Talk to children of all ages throughout the day to enrich their brain development	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

		<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
7.	I feel more confident that my interactions with children in my care will be more positive and appropriate to their needs and ages.					
8.	I have a greater understanding of how to create a more stimulating and responsive environment for the children in my care.					
9.	I have been motivated to improve my relationship and communication with the other care givers in the child's life to support their growth and development.					
10.	I learned something worthwhile in this program.					
11.	As a result of this program, I will make changes and improvements to how I encourage young children's growth and development.					
12.	The instructor motivated me to think about the topic and how it applies to my interactions with the children in my care.					

13. What was the most important information or skill you gained in this session was?

14. How are you going to use this information or skill with your family and/or children in your care?

15. Other comments you would like to share.