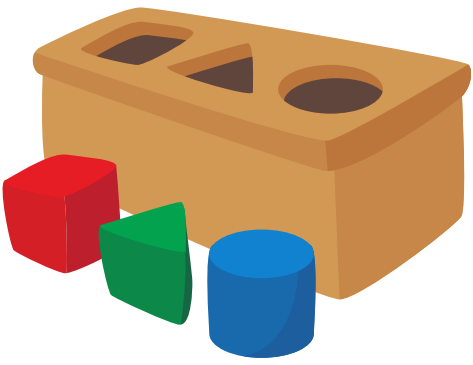


A Practical Guide to Understanding Functional Play in young children

What is functional play?



Functional play is when children explore and play with objects in the way they are intended to be used. This includes playing with cause and effect toys, completing puzzles, etc.

Why is functional play important?

- Encourages children to explore the uses of objects and how objects are related to each other
- Encourages children to consider how objects can be used for their intended purpose



Begins in the toddler years and continues through the preschool years

How does functional play support children's development?

Functional play promotes the development of:

- motor skills,
- hand-eye coordination,
- pattern recognition,
- concentration,
- problem solving,
- independence,

and much more!

How can adults support functional play?

- Provide several age appropriate toys the child can play with independently
- Model how children can use the objects for their intended purpose
- Provide positive attention as the child plays
- Rotate toys to keep the experience new and fun for the child
- Provide the child with plenty of time and adequate space to engage in functional play

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