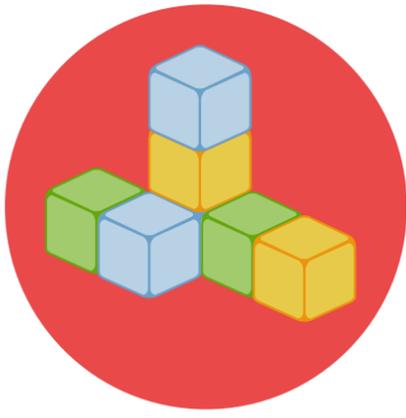


A Practical Guide to Understanding Relational Play in young children

What is relational play?



Relational play is when children explore objects by manipulating them and exploring how they relate to each other. Children may group objects, stack objects, build with objects, etc.

Why is relational play important?

- Allows children to learn about the properties of objects such as color, shape, texture, etc.
- Encourages independence as children explore their environment independently



How does relational play support children's development?

Relational play promotes the development of:

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

and much more!

How can adults support relational play?

- Provide several, similar, age appropriate toys children can play with in relation to each other (ex: blocks, nesting cups)
- Provide positive attention as children play
- Rotate toys to keep the experience new and fun
- Provide plenty of time and adequate space for children to engage in relational play

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