

It's **healthy** and **beneficial** for all genders of children to play with every kind of toy! As children grow and develop, they **learn** important new things with every new kind of **play**.



Did you know?

Many parents and caregivers worry that people will judge their children if they are exploring play that is usually associated with another gender (like boys playing with dolls). Research shows that family and caregiver support is associated with positive mental health outcomes for kids who don't conform to gender norms.

2SLGBTQ stands for:

- Two Spirit
- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Transgender
- Queer

What should I say if people judge my child for how they play?

- Pretend and imaginary play of all kinds helps to build children's brains.
- All kinds of play builds children's confidence and competence.
- I'm not concerned about how my child plays. Everything they do helps to build their confidence and skills.
- He's practicing to be a caring father.
- She's learning to be a problem solver.
- They're curious about the world.
- I follow his/her/their lead.

Did you know?

Research tells us that girls start out just as excited about math and science as boys. When they can play and practice equally, they do just as well in those subjects in school.



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All Kids Can Play With Everything!



ENGLISH





What's good about playing with all kinds of toys?

Children are more engaged when they can explore the world around them with their natural curiosity and enthusiasm. Providing children with opportunities to play with a variety of toys and materials that they are interested in helps them to develop skills such as problem solving, creative thinking, and innovation. Children thrive in indoor and outdoor spaces that invite them to investigate, imagine, think, create, solve problems, and make meaning from their experiences.



What Children Need

As they grow and develop, children make sense of their world by copying what the people around them do. This helps them learn how things work, gain new skills and develop confidence. The best way to prepare your child for success is to encourage them to try and learn about everything! In early years spaces, everything is chosen to be safe and positive for your child, so encourage them to explore and to try new things!

Is it normal for my girl to play with trucks or my boy to like dolls?

Yes! Studies show that children's natural curiosity about all kinds of play is valuable as they learn and grow.



All PLAY is important!

Regardless of the child's gender, a wide range of kinds of play enriches their development.

- Outside activities help to strengthen confidence.
- Kitchen play builds relationships and introduces early numeracy (math) skills.
- Role play and dressing up promote imagination and mental flexibility.
- Construction play teaches planning and problem solving.
- Puzzles and crafts help children learn colours, sorting, and improve their small motor skills.
- Play with dolls lets kids practice being kind and caring.

"Play is the work of children."

When kids are encouraged – they thrive! Kids learn about the world through play and curiosity.

By encouraging them to express ideas and feelings without judging, adults can help increase confidence and a strong sense of identity.



Did you know?

Studies show that making boys play only with stereotypical "boy toys" makes them less likely to do well in school, because they learn to fear being wrong.

Does this mean my child will be gay?

Not at all. It doesn't mean anything about their gender or sexuality. Varied and imaginative play is simply a sign of curiosity and intelligence.

