

STOP AND CREATE PROGRAM 2021



The Benefits of LEGO

MIRANDA

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

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Our Approach

Stop and Create is a program we implement within our preschool room, which incorporates creative LEGO play for the children each day. Our educators have dedicated 15-30 minutes of the school readiness program to allow the children to engage in our Stop and Create program. We have found that the children particularly enjoy this after rest-time, however based on the rotating program Stop and Create can be implemented at any time throughout the day based on the children's current interests.

The Benefits of LEGO Play

It has been proven that there are many beneficial elements for children's development by allowing them to free play with LEGO. Research completed by Wolfgang, Stannard & Jones (2003) has shown that play with LEGO in early years has demonstrated greater performance in high school mathematics subjects such as geometry, trigonometry, calculus, and similar advanced mathematics.

By providing substantial time each day for the children to be creative with LEGO, we are not only enhancing their construction and imaginative skills, but working on a wide variety of abilities which will enhance their overall development. These enriching skills and developmental areas include fine motor, cognitive, teamwork, communication, patience, experimentation, problem solving, lateral thinking, concentration, spatial awareness, planning and persistence.

Piaget's (1936) theory of cognitive development explains how children learn and develop intelligence. Rejecting the notion that intelligence is a fixed trait that children are born with; Piaget understood that intelligence and cognitive ability is a process of continual growth as children physically mature and interact with their world. Through hands on play experiences, such as LEGO, where children can construct and experiment, children are able to extend their learning through active discovery.

The Early Years Learning Framework highlights the importance of active discovery learning, where children can develop the fundamental creative and cognitive learning skills necessary for lifelong learning. LEGO offers children the ability to bring out their inner investigator, challenge and extend their own thinking as individuals and in groups. Through manipulation of open-ended resources, children hypothesise and expand on their thinking through cause and effect.

It is our goal to allow the children a consistent time of day where they look forward to Stop and Create and are able to take this experience in their own direction based on their interests and ideas. Our educators will use this time to help extend upon the children's creations by facilitating learning in these different developmental areas through questions and interaction.

