

types of Play



Imaginative

Play in which learners pretend that real things are otherwise.
(Pretending it is raining inside)

mastery

Play in which learners attempt to gain control of environments.
(Marble mazes, Rube Goldbergs, DNA models)

creative

Play that enables learners to explore, develop ideas and make things.

EXPLORATORY

Play in which learners explore objects, spaces, etc. through the senses in order to find out information or explore possibilities.

Fantasy

Play in which learners take on roles that would not occur in real life.
(Being a superhero)

socio-dramatic

The enactment of real-life scenarios that are based on personal experiences.
(Playing house, going shopping)

communication

Play using words, songs, rhymes, poetry, etc.

LOCOMOTOR

Play which involves movement.
(Hide and seek, animal mimicry, dance)

ROUGH TUMBLE

When learners are in physical contact during play, but there is no violence.
(energetic play)

Dramatic

Play that dramatizes events in which learners have not directly participated, as if in front of an audience.

symbolic

Occurs when learners use an object to stand for another object.
(A stick becomes a horse)

RECAPITULATIVE

Play in which learners might explore history, rituals and myths.

Role

Play in which learners take on a role beyond the personal or domestic roles associated with socio-dramatic play.

social

Play during which rules for social interaction are constructed and employed.
(Setting the table, creating a society, board games)

Deep

An ecstatic form of play that is intense and transcendent. Classified more by mood rather than activity.

object

Play in which learners explore items using their senses. Basically, playing with stuff.