

Cougar Cubs PRESCHOOL



WHAT IS PLAY SCHEMA?

Repeated behaviors are ways in which connections are built

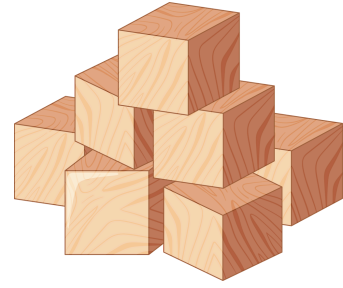
Examples:

Adults learning to park in a parking spot

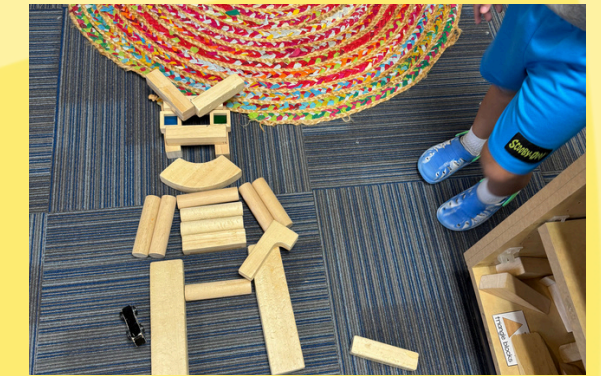
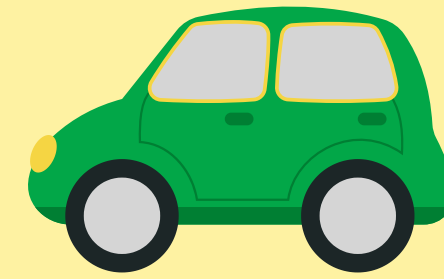
Figure out how hard to press the gas pedal in a rental car

Repeated action is needed to build connections

**Play schema is like the wind, you can't see it blowing but
you can see the effect it has.**



BLOCKS



- **Schema Play**-Engaging in activities that allow exploration of different concepts such as shape, space, texture, and movement. This encourages children to ask questions, solve problems, and think critically.
- **Math**-You may see a child lining up cars, but we see sorting, sequencing, patterning, measurement and spacial awareness.
- **Social/Emotional**-Self esteem, self control, Conflict resolution, and relationship skills
- **Science**-testing hypotheses and building scientific reasoning
- **Language and Literacy** -Why is blocks such a noisy center? All the communication! The discoveries, the excitement, problem solving, and the story telling.



DRAMATIC PLAY

“DRAMATIC PLAY IS WHERE CHILDREN TRY ON THE WORLD AND PRACTICE BEING PART OF IT.”

2. SOCIAL + EMOTIONAL GROWTH

Dramatic play helps children understand feelings, relationships, and social rules. They learn to take turns, collaborate, share materials, and navigate conflict. Pretending to be someone else also builds empathy and perspective-taking.

1. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

When children act out roles—like chef, doctor, or parent—they practice new vocabulary, sentence structure, and expressive language. They learn how to communicate ideas, negotiate roles, and solve problems with words.

3. REAL-WORLD UNDERSTANDING

Dramatic play gives children a chance to process and make sense of everyday experiences—going to the doctor, visiting a store, taking care of a baby. It helps them feel capable, confident, and more secure in the world around them.



READING CENTER

Play supports brain development, self-regulation, language & communication, executive functioning, problem solving, and social & emotional skills.

In our reading center students are able to connect with books in many different ways. Students can retell familiar stories with puppets. Students can practice oral storytelling by coming up with new stories on their own or using story stones to help them create a story.



FINE MOTOR CENTER

Purpose of the Center

This center offers hands-on exploration that strengthens small muscle control, coordination, and early problem-solving skills. All essential foundations for writing, self-help tasks, and academic readiness.

Ideas of Materials

- Scarves
- Hair Rollers
- Magnetic Color & Number Sort Puzzle
- Bag Clips and Metal Bowl
- Felt Board



SKILLS THEY DEVELOPED

Hand-Eye Coordination

- Placing clips on a frame
- Connecting puzzle pieces
- Wrapping and moving scarves with intention

Creativity & Imaginative Thinking

- Using scarves in open-ended play encourages creativity, movement, and flexible thinking.
- Combining items in new ways fosters experimentation.

Cognitive & Problem-Solving Skills

- Exploring how items fit together
- Matching colors and numbers in the magnetic sort puzzle supports early math concepts.
- Predicting outcomes and testing ideas through hands-on exploration.

Self-Confidence & Independence

- Successfully completing tasks builds perseverance and pride.

Language & Social Interaction

- Describing textures, colors, actions, and strategies.
- Collaborating with peers on puzzles and shared materials.

Music Center

THE VALUE OF MUSIC PLAY IN PRESCHOOL

The music center in preschool is much more than just shaking some instruments or listening to some songs. It helps to support the student throughout multiple areas. While playing in the music center, students will be introduced to language and early literacy skills. They will develop math skills, strengthen social-emotional skills by playing with others, Increase their self regulation skills, and boost memory and cognitive skills. The music center also enhances motor development and encourages creativity and imagination.



MUSIC CENTER DEVELOPMENT

Language and early literacy skills: songs teach sequence, counting, and rhymes that will strengthen phonological awareness.

Math skills: making patterns with repeating beats using instruments and learning spatial awareness by moving instruments to specific locations (over, under, beside).

Social-emotional skills: singing songs together builds a sense of belonging and sharing instruments encourages turn taking.

Self Regulation: listening to soft and soothing music or beating on a drum.

Memory and Cognitive Skills: song builds attention and listening skills, children have an easier time remembering through song.

Motor development: dancing, tapping, and shaking increases gross and fine motor. encourages creativity and imagination: playing their own rhythms and creating silly songs.

SCIENCE

Science in preschool lays the foundation for curiosity and problem-solving — through play, children explore how things work, ask questions, make predictions, and discover that they can be thinkers and investigators



WHAT ARE THEY LEARNING ?



SCIENCE



- To Observe and ask questions about the world around them.
- To Use their senses to explore textures, sounds, smells, and movement.
- To Make predictions and test ideas through hands-on experiments.
- To Notice cause and effect (e.g., "When I pour this, it overflows!").
- To Compare and classify objects by size, weight, color, and texture.
- To Develop problem-solving skills by trying new ways to make things work.
- To Build vocabulary with words like float, sink, heavy, light, magnet, measure, and change.
- To Record and share observations through drawings, conversations, and charts.





MATH

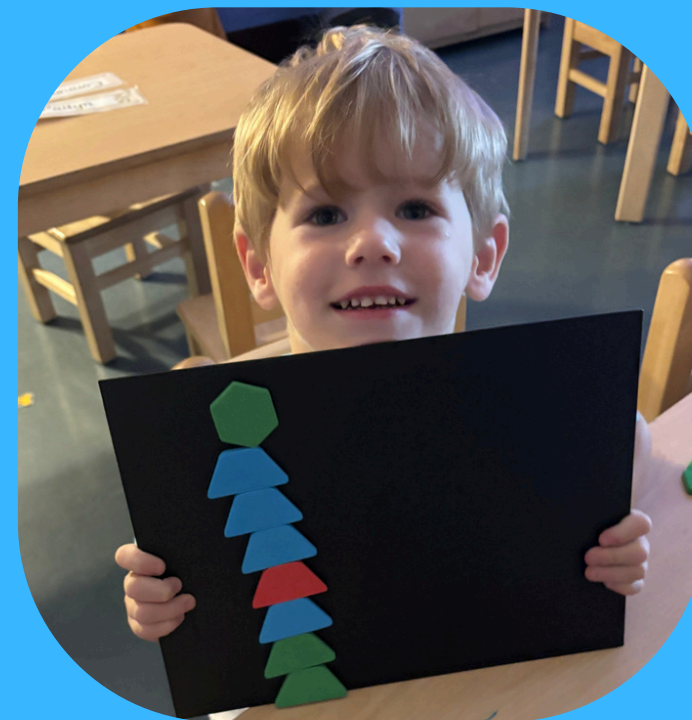


The foundations for math and numbers are learned best through the exploration of concrete, active materials. Like Numbers, 2d and 3d Shapes, scales, dice, puzzles, pattern blocks, and colored bears.

The more experiences young children have with these types of materials, the greater number of cognitive links to abstract math concepts will exist for them in their later educational experiences.



MATH



THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

Play is a genuine form of creativity and problem solving. It prepares children for the idea of “what to do next” which is a lesson that prepares for the future. Play develops the whole child: physical, social, and emotional being. Not all children learn in the same way or at the same time, but play allows for all children to learn in a way that is developmentally appropriate for them.

Play is not a break from learning. Play is *the foundation* of learning!