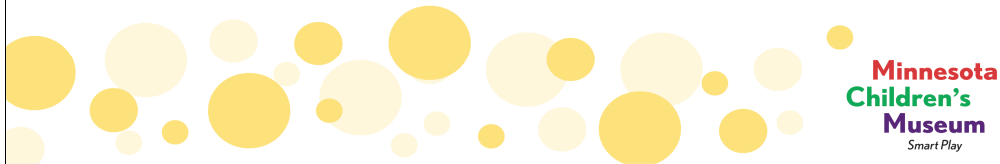


Gallery Observations

*What does learning through play look like?
How can a child's age change how that looks?
How do adults participate in play?*



- This is a discussion of how to observe in the galleries.
- Part of being able to work with adults and children is the ability to review a situation and find your role in the environment.

Observation sheet

Children

- List two (radically different) ways in which a child/children are playing

Describe the scene.

•**What does it look like?** Movement, body posture, facial expression, interactions with others, face to face, side by side, on the side lines

•**What does it sound like?** Quiet, noisy, interactions with others, talking to self, laughter, screams, squeals, singing

•**What does it feel like?** Celebratory, private, secret, aggressive, territorial, tentative

Adults

- List three ways in which adults are involved or uninvolved in children's play

•In each of the situations above where and how can you see yourself getting involved?

- This is the observation sheet staff and volunteers use in the galleries.
- It again helps them develop observation skills
- Gather some examples of adult and children play for later discussions.

Styles of Play

Associative Play



- After observation we go into some more early childhood 101, how children play.
- This is done by introducing the play and a photo for participants to discuss. “What do you see happening here”

Associative play, occurs when children play with each other, sharing similar materials and activities in an unstructured way.



- We describe what this particular play is.
- Which is important to see how important play is if we are able to define how children play.



Styles of Play
Cooperative Play



Styles of Play
Solitary Independent Play



Styles of Play
Onlooker Play



Styles of Play
Parallel Play

We do this for all five styles of play.

During this time we refer back to the observation sheets did any one see children playing in a certain style. How did they know.

Adult Roles in Play

Observer



Sees the progress and needs

We then introduce the adult roles in play. There are six roles that adults can take. This includes our adult visitors as well as staff.

Sometimes all six can be used in one play time, sometimes only one will be use.

The observer is an important one that we want staff to know it is ok to observe, in fact we encourage a certain amount of observation. Are you needed in the play, are props needed, does the child just want someone to watch but not participate.

Adult Roles in Play

Stage Manager



Prepares play environment

- This is role requires the adult to act on an observation.
- It is also an important role for our program facilitators they set up the environment for the most success.
- For example during a painting activity is the paper on a level for the children is the paint reachable or do children have to crawl across their picture to get the paint.

Adult Roles in Play

Mediator



Resolves conflicts

- This role resolves conflict with other children or internally for the child.
- As this picture shows the adult is discussing with the child and encouraging them to join in the play.

Adult Roles in Play Player



Joins in and plays
alongside

- One of the most recognizable play for our staff.
- We discuss taking the child’s lead and not taking dictating the play.
- For example we have a bus that children get to be the “drivers”. If an adult wants to join the play we discuss asking the child bus driver going where they are going instead of getting on and asking to be taken to the Mall of America.

Adult Roles in Play

Social Director



Assists in finding a role to play
and suggests play scenes

Social Director helps children join in the play invites them over and takes the play further. Questions such as what would happen if we.... or what could we do with this, are all ways to be a social director.

Adult Roles in Play

Scribe



Collects information
to help learn what is taking place during play

- We encourage staff that they are all educators as well and to share information of ways they have played help future and current staff.
- Including collecting stories and observations for documentation.

Adult Roles in Play

Research has shown:

After preparing a rich environment, the adult has a role in extending play by observing the children, interacting with them, giving further information, adding or changing materials as appropriate and, in some instances, providing a sense of direction.



Recipe for Play

RECIPE FOR PLAY

- The child is the cook
- Don't set the timer
- Ignore the mess
- There are never too many ingredients
- The adult is the taste tester and it always tastes good
- Trust that something good will come out of the oven
- Everyone gets to enjoy!

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