



# Play-Based Learning 2018

"It wasn't like this when I went to school"  
"If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow."  
(John Dewey 1859-1952)



"The creation of something new is not accomplished by the intellect but by the play instinct."  
-Carl Jung



"When children pretend, they're using their imaginations to move beyond the bounds of reality. A stick can be a magic wand. A sock can be a puppet. A small child can be a superhero."  
-Fred Rogers



"Play is our brain's favorite way of learning."  
-Diane Ackerman

## DURING PLAY CHILDREN:

- often take on the role of someone different
- practise fine motor skills necessary for writing
- form new friendships with a variety of ages and stages
- have the freedom to follow their interests
- are creative
- show innovation
- show resilience
- show respect
- show determination
- have fun and enjoy learning
- lose themselves in imaginary worlds (vet, hair salon, restaurant, office)
- engage in problem-solving
- write and perform their own plays
- ask questions about things they are interested in
- build new understandings through making things
- take risks and increase their confidence
- engage in conversations with a wide range of peers
- learn to negotiate
- learn to manage themselves
- wonder about things around their world and share this with others
- improve their social skills
- learn to self-regulate

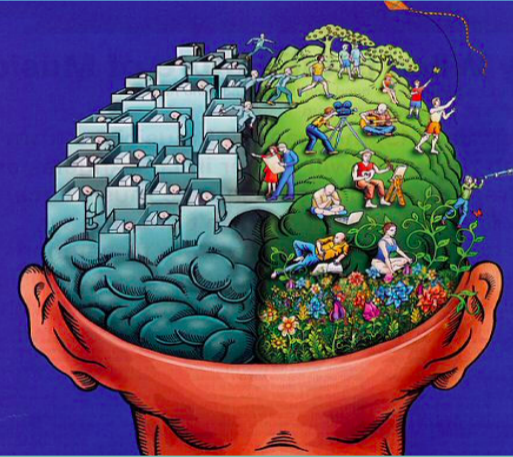
"Play is the highest form of research" - Albert Einstein



"Children learn as they play. More importantly, in play, children learn how to learn."  
-O. Fred Donaldson



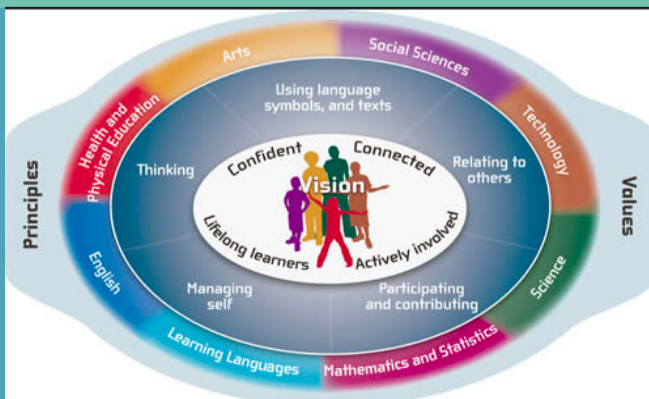
"Almost all creativity involves purposeful play."  
-Abraham Maslow



## RIGHT BRAIN VS LEFT BRAIN

- Right brain develops first (between 3-4 years of age)
- Left brain doesn't fully come online until approximately 7 years old
- Left brain functionality is one of language, analysis and time; it's logical, calculating and keeps us anchored in the pragmatic world
- The right brain is responsible for empathy, imagination and creativity. It's where we wonder, dream, connect and come alive
- The right brain connects us to our boundless sense of being
- This is why play is so important in child learning and development
- Pushing literacy and numeracy on children before they are developmentally ready may not be as helpful as we think. This can cause children to believe themselves to be incapable and lose their natural desire to learn
- Let's remember that life is less about the tools the left brain excels in and what we accomplish in this world. Rather, life is about being present and connecting with those you love, or those you don't, even know as children do so freely

## LINKS TO THE NZ CURRICULUM AND BEYOND ...



The Key Competencies are a major part of the NZ Curriculum and relate closely to Te Whāriki. They continue to be built on through secondary school and even tertiary education. They are a set of skills that transfer to life long learning and are clearly evident through play.