

Play-Based Learning and Direct Instruction

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Play Based learning

- Children are given time to carry out their own ideas through play.
- Their knowledge of the world is enriched through appropriate content offered in interesting ways by their teacher.



What does research say about Play Based Learning?



- A clear relationship between language used during early childhood play and later literacy outcomes.
- Less likely to need Special Education services.
- Higher levels of creativity.
- Higher cognitive gains overall.

Suggestions for Principals and any Early Childhood Leader:

- Create opportunities for teachers to learn about play
- Provide time for teachers to observe each other during playtimes
- Create appropriate play environments, both inside and outside
- Schedule time for play every day
- Help teachers address concerns with parents

Direct Instruction

- Skills oriented
- Emphasis on the use of small-group
- Carefully articulated lessons in which skills are broken down in small units
- Provides for guided student practice

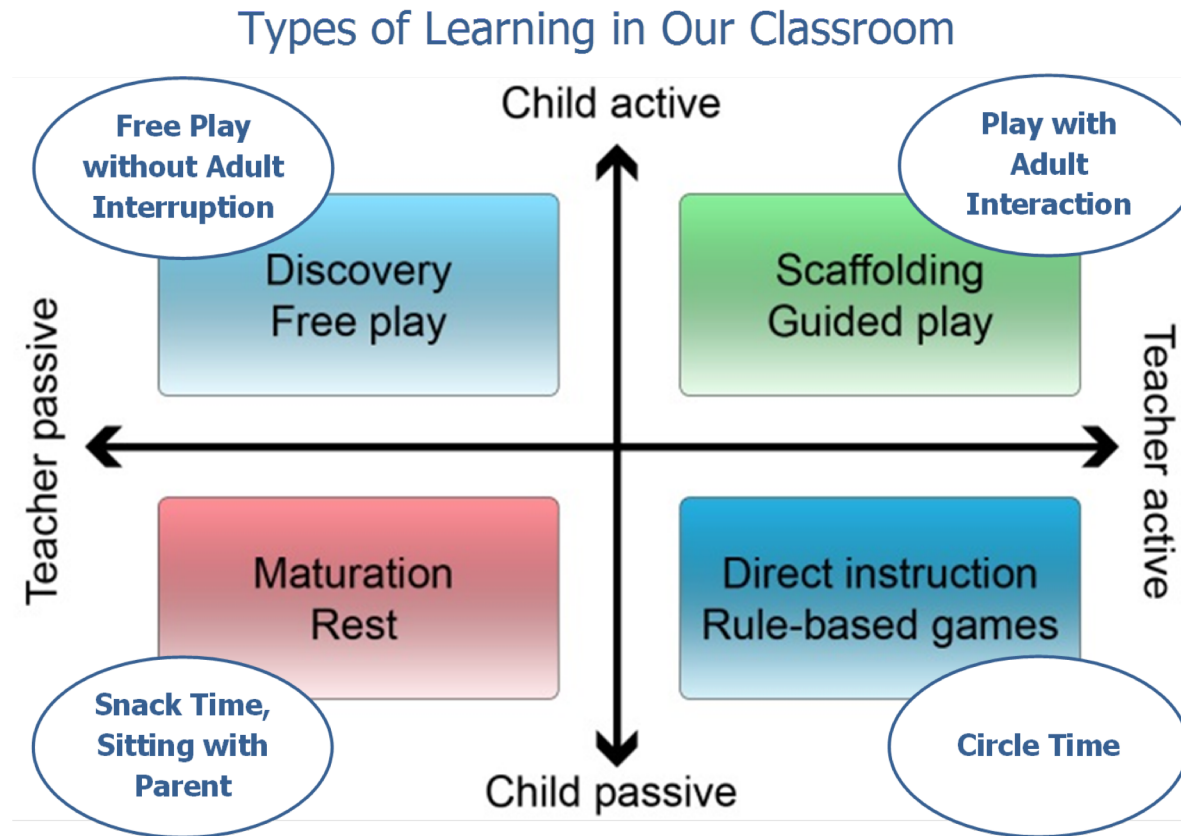


The Direct Instruction method proven to be effective in improving student learning:

1. Teaching in small steps with student practice after each step.
2. Guiding students during initial practices
3. Ensuring that all students experience a high level of successful practice.



How can Play Based and Direct Instruction Coexist in Early Childhood Programs?



Internal Professional Development in the Early Childhood Division.

- Created a Vision for the Division based on the agency's desire to address the whole child, whole school, and whole community
- Continuing work on a Mission Statement
- Develop a strategic plan



Early Childhood Principal Consultants, providing expertise and guidance to the Field

