

“Passive approaches such as seat work, worksheets, scripted programs, and rote learning are antithetical to a play-based paradigm for learning.”

- New York State  
Next Generation  
Early Learning Standards



It is “...the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in the cultural life and the arts.”

- The United Nations Children’s  
Summit, Article 31

“Rather than diminishing children’s learning by reducing the time devoted to academic activities, play promotes key abilities that enable children to learn successfully.”

- NAEYC Position Statement on  
Developmentally Appropriate Practice

“Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.”  
- Fred Rogers



*Creating with nature.*



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## PURPOSEFUL PLAY

The mission of the Wappingers Central School District is to **empower** all of our students with the competencies and confidence to **challenge** themselves, to pursue their passions, and to realize their potential while **growing** as responsible members of their community.

**Play is the foundation we lay with our youngest students toward meeting this mission.**



*Animals and blocks: What can I make?*



*Using ramps and tunnels.*

## Purposeful Play Vision Statement

Wappingers Central School District will **empower** our Kindergarten students, through purposeful play, **challenging** them to explore their world while **growing** socially, emotionally, physically, and academically.

## What is Purposeful Play?

Purposeful Play is a time for students to be creative, explore their world, and work together while building relationships with others.

## Why Purposeful Play?

Purposeful Play gives kindergarten students hands-on, meaningful and fun learning opportunities. This type of experience for students provides a stronger foundation in reading, writing, math, science and social studies.

## Purposeful Play and Recess

Purposeful Play	Recess
Students define the play	The material defines the play
Students remain in one area for the entire day's session	Students can disengage at any point
Is real work	Is a break from the day
Focuses on collaboration, negotiation, empathy, self-regulation, perspective, social interactions, self-expression, risk taking, self-talk	There is no focus and students can choose not to engage
Includes explicit instruction and coaching towards specific goals	Includes supervision for safety

**Purposeful Play is not recess. Kindergarteners have time for Purposeful Play and recess every day.**

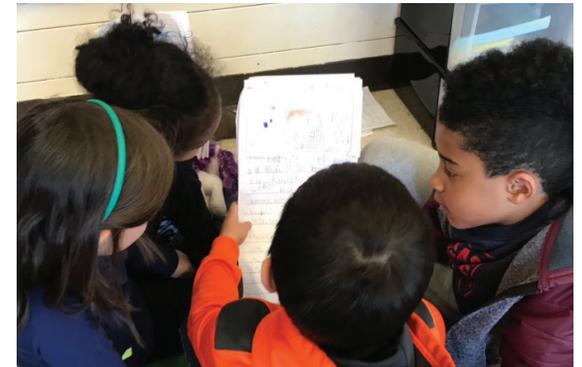


*What can you build only using squares?*

## How Does Purposeful Play Help Our Children?

Purposeful Play is important to a child's development and learning! Research shows Purposeful Play helps children develop:

- social-emotional skills
- problem-solving skills
- self-regulation
- creativity
- language development



*Sharing stories.*



*Building and exploring with blocks.*