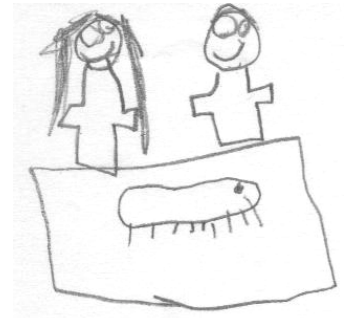


# Play and Literacy



## What is play?

- Play is child initiated – he or she starts the activity
- Play is child controlled and directed
- Play is multi-sensory – children look, touch, move, listen, and talk
- Play is intrinsically motivating – joyful, enjoyable
- Play is successful for all children – develops feeling of competence
- Play is interactive – children are engaged with materials, other children and/or adults
- Play is not reality bound – can involve another time or place

The goal of play is to have fun and communicate ideas.

## What is literacy?

Literacy is the acquisition of communication skills: speaking, listening, reading, writing, viewing and representing. Oral language – talking and listening, is the foundation of reading and writing. The definition of reading and writing is basically the representation of oral language.

## Play and literacy are alike!

- Both manipulate symbols: a block stands for a pretend car; “B” stands for the letter and sound B
- Both are done with the intention of communicating ideas
- Both require children to assign meaning
- In both play and literacy, interactions promote learning

Play is the best way to develop literacy skills ONLY IF play and literacy endeavors are enriched by adults who are interacting and supporting children to enhance these experiences.

Our goal is not just to teach – our goal is for all children to learn!

