

Puzzle Play



Maya has really shown an interest in completing different puzzles. Jigsaws, stacking cups, stacking rings and shape sorters she is developing her fine motor and cognitive development skills as she completes these different puzzles. I set up a variety of different types of puzzles on the puzzle mat for Maya to complete. She walked over and chose the lock board. "I want this one" Maya said. She began to fiddle and unlock each of the different types of locks to open the doors. "I can do it" Maya said with a smile. Each door she unlocked, Maya pointed to the animal and named it "a frog" Maya said. She closed the door and locked it again "can't get out", Maya commented. Maya seemed to enjoy this puzzle of unlocking and locking the doors.

Benefits of Puzzle Play



- Allows children to learn the concepts of parts and whole
- Enables children to build visual – perceptual skills
- Children develop attention skills and concentration
- Improvement of hand – eye coordination and fine motor skills
- Assists language skills as children talk about what they are doing
- Enables children to extend on thinking skills such as remembering, matching and sorting



Linking To The Framework



- Children Have a Strong Sense of Identity
- Children are Connected and Contribute to their World
- Children Have a Strong Sense of Well Being
- Children are Confident and Involved Learners
- Children are Effective Communicators



Principles

- Secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships
- Partnerships
- High Expectations and equity
- Respect for diversity
- Ongoing learning and reflective practices

Practices

- Holistic approaches
- Responsiveness to children
- Learning through play
- Intentional teaching
- Learning environments
- Cultural competence
- Continuity of learning and transition
- Assessment for learning