

The Toy Table



Toy tables are games, manipulative projects, puzzles and collectibles that children can play with at the table or on the floor. These are quiet activities the children can do alone, with a friend or a teacher. They offer children challenging opportunities to learn new skills.

Table toys can also serve as excellent tools for working with children individually, and in small groups.

Providing a good variety of table top toys with differences in texture, colour, shape and degree of difficulty, would provide opportunities to each child's developmental learning.

Benefits of the Toy Table

Children grow in all areas of their development as they play with table top toys. They have to share and take turns as they play a game or build an intricate design. Kids develop a feeling of competence when they complete a puzzle or finish a project. Listed below are some suggested learning objectives that support a child's overall development.

- Children experience pride in accomplishments (seeking a task from start to finish).
- Enables children to demonstrate perseverance and self-discipline (working with a puzzle until it has been completed).
- Assists children to refine the sense of touch (learning to distinguish toys made from different materials).
- Creates creative ability (experimenting with open ended toys).
- Provides opportunities for children to sort and match object by attributes such as colour, size texture and shape (using collections- buttons shells bottle-tops etc).
- Children begin to work cooperatively in small groups (playing lotto dominoes and memory and matching games).
- Enables children to develop self-control (sharing toys and waiting for their turn).
- Helps children develop hand eye coordination.
- Assists in the development of fine motor control.

By using a toy table, children are able to explore and experiment at their own pace. This being a quiet activity effectively helps children to concentrate and feel calm.

Linking to the Early Years Learning Framework

- 1.4** - Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect.
- 2.3** - Children become aware of fairness.
- 3.1** - Children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing.
- 4.2** – Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, enquiry, experimentation, hypothesizing, researching and investigating.
- 5.5** – Children use information and communication technologies to access information, investigate ideas and represent their thinking.

***QIAS Principle 4.4.1** – Staff encourage each child to make choices and participate in play.*