

How Children Learn

How children learn is a question which is receiving increased emphasis because of the attention given to growth and development in the early years. Though there is no one absolute answer, there are some concepts or generalizations we can make about how children learn.

1. Children learn what they want to learn, not what we want them to learn. So encouraging a love of learning is important. You are a motivator.
2. Children learn a little at a time - very slowly. We often expect too much beyond their level. "I told you that yesterday." Of course you did, and you'll say it tomorrow, clearly and without irritation.
3. Children learn by what they see us do - far more than what they hear us say.
4. Children learn what they understand. Here again, we often try to teach beyond their level. We may have to say it more than one way.
5. Children need to be taught patiently, gently but firmly.
6. Children learn more by what is right than by what is wrong. Use a positive approach giving directions and ideas rather than "no-no's."
7. Knowledge of improvement has a positive effect upon learning. We should tell children when they have learned or accomplished something.
8. Children learn more in a friendly atmosphere than in an unfriendly one.

Children learn many things through play because play allows for exploration and discovery. All of the child's senses are involved in the learning process (hearing, seeing, touching, smelling, tasting).

