

ECE351 Week1

1cwilkes. (2009, October 14). [Play theory - ASU preschool](http://youtu.be/6llq96oQKwU) [Video file]. Retrieved from
<http://youtu.be/6llq96oQKwU>

0:01.5

NARRATOR:

Bright-eyed, energetic,
and curious

0:05.5

are words we use to describe
children as they play.

0:09

Playing is such a natural
part of childhood,

0:11.8

but does it also have
educational benefits?

0:15

The faculty at Arizona State
University's preschool

0:19

at the Mary Lou Fulton
College seem to think so.

0:22.3

They base their preschool program
around children playing and learning.

0:27

One of the teachers there,
Nancy Siket,

0:30

shares her feelings, ideas, and
experiences about this program.

0:40.5

MS. SIKET

Uh...some of the notable people that
have contributed to the play theory

0:45.5

of course are Piaget and Vygotsky.

0:49

They tend to be, I think the...

0:51

some of the heavyweights that have influenced modern...um...

0:56

learning theories in young children.

1:00

Piaget...was a more-
in these different ages.

1:04

You know, the sensorimotor, the preoperational, and then the...uh...

1:08.9

Operational, the rule...
motivated play...

1:14

If you connect play with his um...

1:18

stages of development, I-I see play as a vehicle for those things to happen.

1:22.5

Those things happen through play.

1:24.7

That's where I see the connection with...with Piaget.

1:27.6

With Vygotsky, his is much more a social process...okay.

1:32.3

And...you know, he describes the zone of proximal development where

1:37

someone, either...an older child or an adult can help bring a child from the

1:44.5

level of knowledge they are comfortable with
to another level, and they need...

1:50.5

that social interaction.

1:52

I think it adds to Piaget's theory though, too

1:55.5

that you have these stages and ages,

1:58

and then you add the social element and how
that can enrich that experience too and bring
these children to a different level.

2:09.5

Well, this program is built up play theory and
we really value play...as a way of learning.

2:16

Um, again because it's...

2:19.4

Learning has to be in the context,
I think, of where the child is too

2:23.3

and because that's the natural way...
they are at...these ages.

2:29

That...that's the natural way...
for them to learn.

2:38

Teachers learn new things...
when you work with children...

2:41.6

in a...play-based curriculum or
a play based environment, I think.

2:47

I think children see...come to see teachers
as...partners in their journey...through life.

2:55.3

Okay, because they're as interested
in things...

2:58.4

as, as they are and they can get excited
about new findings outside

3:03.5

or something they constructed inside.

3:05.8

I just think that, um...

3:08

everyone has freedom to learn things,

3:11.2

and not in a very rigid...um...
calculated way.

3:16

They are really free to learn those things,

3:18.5

and they're free to spend time
on those things too.

3:26

I think in...today's, um...climate,

3:32.3

I think a lot of people, parents in particular,
um, become anxious that their children, um...

3:39

aren't learning a lot of good facts
before they go into school.

3:43.5

I think if you really...look at it and
understand it...

3:49

and know that this is the way children learn.
They have...for centuries.

3:56

And I think it's, uh, a great opportunity
For children to learn...

4:03.5
um, language because usually in, um...
dramatic play, it involves more than one child.

4:11.8
It's usually two or more children
that are involved in that.

4:14.5
Think, if you're interested in that real learning
will take place, and you can apply...

4:19.5
you know, math and science and literacy
and a host of things to quote a project.

4:25
You can incorporate all those things in there
because usually it does include some of those things.

4:33
I think it's also an opportunity...

4:35.5
for teachers to really look at children's
strengths and build on those too

4:40
and form...relationships with children
where, um, the centerpiece is, uh, the trust,
is the element of trust.

4:48.4
Um, teachers trust children and,
and children will trust teachers too.

4:53.3
You have to spend time with, with anybody
in order to form that relationship.

4:57.7
And teachers have to be good observers and
listeners in this kind of...

5:01

A...a play environment...
can accommodate all children.

5:08

NARRATOR:

So, can children really learn through play?

5:12

I believe that that answer can be found in the
eyes and the laughter of the children themselves.