



Learning Through Play

"Play is the highest form of research." ~ Albert Einstein

Albert Einstein said, "Play is the highest form of research". Remember to allow children time and space to explore and create. Children learn by doing. **Teaching is passive. Learning is active.**



Encouraging Early Learners in Brazos Valley

2017—Quarter 1

Active Play

When children play they use all of their senses. The experiences they have with their senses send messages to their brain and establish the connections they will need for later learning. While children play they learn many skills—

- ★ They learn how to get along with others
- ★ They learn how to solve problems & devise solutions to challenges
- ★ They learn to take turns
- ★ They learn to cooperate & collaborate
- ★ They learn how to use words to communicate
- ★ They learn to take another child's perspective



If you think about it, these are more than play skills; they are life skills.

Early Experiences Matter

Experiences between birth and age 5 matter significantly to children's long-term emotional and psychological health. The emotional, social, and physical development of young children has a direct effect on their overall development and set the path for their adult life.

We have listed a few wonderful websites here that have great information on child development and early experiences. Enjoy!

[Zero To Three](#)

[Early Childhood Teacher](#)

[Texas Childcare Solutions](#)

[Child Care Encyclopedia](#)

[Infant-Toddler TAMU](#)

8 Positive Phrases!

- ☺ I am grateful for you.
- ☺ I believe in you.
- ☺ You are worth it.
- ☺ It's good to be curious.
- ☺ I learn new things from you everyday.
- ☺ I appreciate you.
- ☺ That's a very fair point.
- ☺ I love seeing the world your way.

This Issue: Learning

Active Play	1
Early Experiences	1
Growth & Development	2
Parent Policies	2
Family Activity Corner	2
Provider Policies	3
Provider Resources	3
Curriculum Enrichment	3
Quality Child Care	4

Growth and Development

Incredible Infants (0-9 months):

Guess What?! I am learning to hold up my head, kick my feet, and sit. Put me on the floor, I need space to practice!

Mobile Movers (9-24 months):

Guess What?! I can crawl and walk now. Please lock all cabinets and remove small objects to keep me safe.

Terrific Two's:

Guess What?! I have big emotions now and get upset quickly. Be consistent and set boundaries so I can learn how to deal with my feelings.



To learn more about developmental milestones, visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

Remember! Every child develops at his/her own pace!

"Look At Me" Three's:

Guess What?! I am learning how to play with other children. Teach me how to be a good friend.

Fantastic Four's:

Guess What?! I am very curious about everything around me. Please have patience and answer all my questions.

Reading to All Ages:

During all stages of my development, I am learning language skills. Read a book to me everyday, it will help me learn new things and give me love for reading!

Parent Policies - CCAA Swipe Cards

If you receive Child Care Subsidies through Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley, you have a CCAA Swipe Card. Make sure that you are using your swipe card daily to indicate your child's attendance at his/her daycare center.

Remember! There is a limit to the number of absences your child can accumulate without penalty—and not swiping IS counted as an absence!

If you miss a day, you are able to go back for up to 6 days to report attendance.

Each account can have up to 4 CCAA cards, so if someone other than you picks up your child on a regular basis, order them their own card!

Things to Avoid:

1. Leaving your CCAA card at your child's daycare center.
2. Allowing anyone, other than the person assigned to the card, to use the card.
3. Swiping a child as present when they were not in attendance.

To Order a CCAA Card, Call: (979) 595-2801 ext. 2105

Family Activity Corner

Children have a natural desire for real life interaction and they fulfill this need through what we call "play". Through play children learn to take turns, to talk to each other, to make a plan, and to consider another person's ideas.

While your child may spend a large part of the day playing, he/she also needs to play with the parent—with whom your child feels most comfortable.



There are thousands of videos about what play is and how it helps your child, so we have selected a couple to get you started; feel free to keep exploring!

[Play Based Learning](#)

[Importance of Play](#)

Building—Parents do not need a fancy building set for this. Popsicle stick cities, card towers, blocks, or even forts out of boxes and pillows will do just fine. This activity encourages your child's imagination and creativity.

Hide and Seek—No list of games would be complete without it! In this classic game, one person ("It") covers their eyes and counts aloud while the other players hide. When "It" is finished counting, he/she begins looking for the hiders. The last hider to be found is the next "It". **WARNING:** This game is often a source of giggle fits! This activity will encourage your child to count.

Adding music, songs, or stories to any of your families daily routines helps increase play!

Provider Policies - Reporting Issues

Sometimes, situations occur that need to be reported to your Provider Specialist.

Here are a few of those instances:

1. CCAA Swipe Card Machine is Not Working/Phone Line is Down (Parents are unable to report attendance)
2. Emergency Closures
3. 5 Day "No-Call"/"No-Show"
4. Parent intent to not return to your center

It is important that you call your Provider Specialist when any of these situations occur to ensure your file is updated.

CCS Provider Specialist
(979) 595-2801 ext. 2243
CCMS@bvcog.org

Other situations to report to your Provider Specialist:

1. Non-payment of the parent share of cost (ie. Parent Fee)
2. Transfers to or from your center—especially if you have not or do not remember receiving a 2450
3. Misuse of CCAA Cards

Make sure you report all changes or situations within 5 business days.

For more information on what changes need to be reported, please read the [Provider Handbook!](#)

Provider Resources

Are you looking for professional development hours for your staff? Want to make sure they are learning something from the training hours?

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension offers convenient, affordable, self-paced eLearning! Each account and course is FREE. A few of the courses require that you pay a small processing fee for the official printable certificate, but most certificates are FREE!

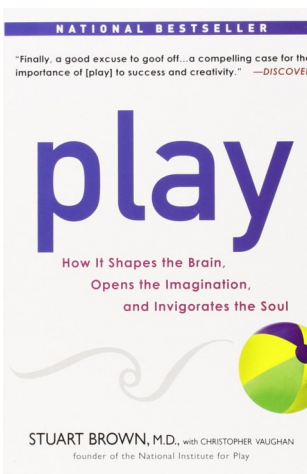
The course offerings cover everything from Pre-Service training, to CDA renewal, to DFPS mandatory annual trainings, and even Special Needs. They have courses focusing on infants and toddlers all the way up to school-age children.

Create a [Free Account](#) to enroll in Child Care courses TODAY!



The more you know, the further you'll go!

Curriculum Enrichment



Dr. Stuart Brown is a leading researcher in the field of play and the founder of the National Institute for Play. He claims that play is more than just a way for kids to have fun and that it is "deeply involved with human development and intelligence".

Dr. Brown is working to establish the study of human play as a vital science. Through the years, he has observed animal play in the wild and has interviewed thousands of individuals about the amount of time they spent "playing" in childhood.

Dr. Brown believes play can have a strong impact on one's life and overall well-being.

Watch Dr. Brown's [TED Talk on Play](#). To learn more about Play and why Dr. Brown states that it is essential to multiple areas of development, you can read his book, *Play: How it Shapes the Brain, Opens the Imagination, and Invigorates the Soul* (pictured to the left) or go to his website www.nifplay.org to read the latest!

What Does Quality Care Mean and Why Does It Matter?

Research tells us that our children's healthy development depends on safe and positive relationships and experiences during the first few years of life. Choosing quality child care is one of the most important decisions you will make for your child as they will be spending a good portion of their first few years in the care of someone other than their parents or family members.

You might want to visit several different child care programs, either centers or family child care homes, before you decide which one is best for your family. Call each child care program and schedule an appointment for your visit. Once there, watch activities, check the surroundings, and ask questions. Find a program that is convenient, open when you need it, and will have a long lasting positive impact on your child's development. Most importantly, you and your child need a child care program that makes sure your child is learning, healthy, and in a physically and emotionally safe environment, ensuring that your child's emotional needs are met.

Texas Rising Star Program

The Texas Rising Star program is a voluntary program striving to provide a higher level of quality care for children. Texas Rising Star provides mentoring and professional development resources to prepare for, sustain, and improve the quality of early childhood environments.

There are three levels of certification (Two-Star, Three-Star, and Four-Star) to encourage providers to attain progressively higher levels of certification. Texas Rising Star provides a higher level of reimbursement, eligibility for quality fund distribution, and out-of-region trainings such as the TLCCA and TAEYC annual conferences. Each year, Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley Board spends approximately \$400,000 on quality items for child care providers who are working towards their Texas Rising Star Provider status.

Providers who are interested in being certified as Texas Rising Star Providers are encouraged to visit the website to learn more.

<http://texasrisingstar.org>



Below is a list of local Texas Rising Star Providers in the Brazos Valley Region.

Provider Name	Star Level
A&M United Methodist Weekday School	★★★★
AlphaBEST - Bowen Elementary	★★★☆☆
AlphaBEST - Crockett Elementary	★★★☆☆
AlphaBEST - Fannin Elementary	★★★☆☆
Becky Gates Children's Center	★★★★
Big Top Learning Center	★★★★
Brazos Valley Kidz Academy	★★★★☆
Bullfrogs and Butterflies Child Care	★★★★
Christ Lutheran Day School	★★★★
First Step Learning Center	★★★★☆
Kinder Care 839	★★★★
Kinder Care 843	★★★★
Methodist Weekday Child Development Center	★★★★
New Beginnings Christian CD Home	★★★★☆
Rising Star Learning Center	★★★☆☆

For Questions, Call or Email:

Kristen Goodson

(979) 595-2801 ext. 2014

Kristen.Goodson@bvcog.org

OR

Lidia Hawryluk

(979) 595-2801 ext. 2016

Lidia.Hawryluk@bvcog.org

Equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Relay Texas (800) 735-2989, TDD (800) 735-2988 Voice, TTY (979) 595-2819